

Egypt frees 116 more militants

CAIRO, Egypt (Agencies)

The government released 116 prisoners Saturday — most of them bearded and wearing white gowns — after they reportedly renounced their Muslim extremist beliefs.

One man knelt, kissed the ground and then looked to the sky with tears in his eyes after leaving Cairo's notorious Tora prison.

Relatives, some waiting for hours, started ululating and throwing candy at guards as they saw the men approach. One mother fainted and fell to the ground after hugging her freed son.

Since last year, the government has released 710 prisoners after they reportedly renounced their extremist beliefs. A senior security official at the prison described the programme as part of the government's "intellectual confrontation" with Muslim extremists, and promised to release dozens more in coming months.

Each man was given 200 Egyptian pounds (\$60) and promised a job, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Since 1992, Muslim militants have waged a violent campaign to overthrow the government and install strict Islamic rule. Nearly 800 people, most of them police and militants, have died in the fighting, which has largely been confined to southern Egypt.

Thousands of suspected militants have been arrested. Most of the men released Saturday were imprisoned on minor charges, such as membership in an illegal group. None of the prisoners interviewed had spent more than three years in jail.

But one man in his 20s, with a long beard often worn by Muslim militants, left the prison gate bitter.

"They took away our life and gave us nothing," said the man, who refused to give his name. "I was imprisoned for 15 months without doing anything."

Prison officials allowed journalists to interview a handful of the prisoners, all of whom said they had learned a lesson in jail and promised not to participate in violence.

Magdi Abdul Aziz, 30, was in jail for 15 months for being a member in the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, or the Islamic group. He said he decided to repent in March because he was disillusioned with the fanaticism of fellow Islamic militants in jail.

"I'll shave my beard as soon as I get out of jail because I want to start a new life. I'm going to preach Islam that calls for love and forgiveness, not the Al Gamaa's Islam, which calls for killing fellow Muslims," he said.

In south Egypt, a secret policeman and a suspected Muslim militant were killed in separate clashes in the governorate of Minya on Saturday, security sources said.

They said two militants shot and killed policeman Motaweh Hafez Abdul Bari in front of his house near the town of Malawi in Minya province, 260 km south of Cairo.

Mr. Abdul Bari's attackers, who stole his gun and escaped, were identified by police as members of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya.

Shortly after Mr. Abdul Bari was killed police patrolling fields near Al Adwa, also in Minya province, exchanged fire with gunmen, the sources said.

One suspected militant, who was not identified by police, was killed in the shoot-out, they added.

9 beheaded in Saudi Arabia

One linked to opposition

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A man linked to a political opposition group was beheaded Saturday after being convicted of throwing acid at an undercover policeman, the government said.

Nine others convicted of complicity in attempting to destabilise internal security and hoarding smuggled arms from opposition leaders in exile were given prison terms of up to 18 years and 300 lashes, according to an interior ministry statement.

The executed Saudi was identified as Abdullah Bin Abdul Rahman Bin Abdullah Al Hadeef. The statement said he attacked the policeman outside his home nearly a year ago but did not describe the circumstances.

It also alleged he plotted assassinations and kidnappings and confessed to plans to use the seized arms to attack "residential complexes." The statement did not elaborate on the targets.

The accomplices tried to help him escape the country, distribute opposition leaflets and arranged illegal meetings to discuss their plans, according to the statement.

The statement alleged the activities were carried out under orders from opposition leader Mohammed Al Masari and his aide Saad Bin Masari Bin Mohammed Al Faqeeh. Mr. Masari heads the

London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which seeks to oust the royal family and establish an Islamic government in Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally and the world's largest oil exporter.

The statement warned that the same punishment would befall "all those who call for the spread of evil and sedition wherever they practice their destructive activities in deceiving others."

On Friday, the wife, daughter and son of a man who was killed in a family dispute were beheaded following conviction by Islamic court. The three along with two men who carried out the killing were executed in the city of Dhahran, capital city of the eastern province.

A Saudi and two Turks were also beheaded Friday in Arar, a town close to the Kingdom's northern borders, after Islamic courts convicted the three for drug smuggling.

The kingdom's chief ulama, or Islamic scholars, ruled in 1987 that drug smuggling and peddling are punishable by headings, a mode of execution prescribed by Islamic law.

The rate of beheadings has been on the rise this year, with the total for the first seven months of this year now past 120, already more than the total for any previous year.

Saudis donate \$90m to Bosnia Muslims

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said on Saturday it raised more than \$90 million in donations to ease the plight of fellow Muslims in Bosnia in a 14-hour nationwide fund-raising drive.

Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz, the emir of the capital Riyadh and organiser of the campaign, said 339 million riyals (\$90.4 million) were raised.

He told the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) that the figure was a preliminary one and the final sum was expected to be announced later.

The fund-raising campaign was carried live on state television and radio, starting at noon on Friday and ending in the early hours of Saturday. Donations were also deposited at banks, mosques and other centres across the country.

King Fahd started the campaign on Friday by donating 50 million riyals (\$13 million), bringing to around 386 million riyals (\$102 million) the total aid he has given Bosnian Muslims so far, SPA reported.

The king had three weeks

ago granted the Bosnian government 50 million riyals (\$13 million). Before the latest campaign, Saudi officials had put total Saudi public donations to Bosnian Muslims at more than 800 million riyals (\$213 million).

SPA had on Friday quoted a letter from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to King Fahd as saying that the Saudi donations "come at a time when Bosnian people are in dire need for the help and support of their brothers."

He said the donations

would help the Bosnian people "to protect their country and preserve their religion and dignity."

Saudi Arabia recently reiterated its call to Islamic states to offer Bosnian Muslims full support in the face of what it called a disgraceful international stand.

Muslim states grouped in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, who back the Bosnian government against rebel Serbs, last month declared a U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia invalid.

Libya denies expelling Egyptian workers

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Libya has denied it is deporting thousands of Egyptian workers following clashes earlier this week between security forces and Muslim militants in major Libyan towns.

An unidentified Libyan official said that more than 1.5 million Egyptians lived and worked in Libya and that "there is no evidence of any of them being subjected to any repatriation measures," according to the Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in Cairo.

The official described traffic across the Libyan-Egyptian border point of

Saloum on the Mediterranean coast as "normal."

Egyptian and Arab officials said Thursday that thousands of Egyptians and 350 Palestinians had poured into Saloum after they were expelled by Libyan authorities. The JANA report late Friday did not mention the Palestinian workers.

But Brigadier Ahmed Mohsen, an Egyptian officer stationed in Saloum, said Saturday the number of workers crossing the border point was "less than usual." There were no signs of Palestinian workers leaving Libya, he told the Associated Press.

Arab diplomats had speculated the reported expulsions were related to clashes between government troops and Muslim activists in Benghazi and Derna, both on the Mediterranean close to Egypt.

Libya, under U.N. sanctions since 1992, has recently accused foreign Muslim militants of sneaking into its territory and instigating clashes. The charges were apparent references to Islamist movements in neighbouring Egypt and Sudan.

An Egyptian delegation, including foreign

ministry officials, left for Libya Saturday to discuss with Libyan officials the situation of the workers, an Egyptian foreign ministry source said.

The delegation will meet officials Sunday. The two countries share close diplomatic and trade ties, despite tension in the past.

Libya's economy, bolstered by oil revenues, has attracted hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, and Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qadhafi has in the past used their presence as a way to put pressure on their home governments.

Levy announces new party

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Foreign Minister David Levy has finalised his split from the Likud Party, announcing that he was forming his own party.

The move, following years of in-fighting between Mr. Levy and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, could harm the Likud's chances of returning to government in the fall 1996 elections by splitting the right-wing vote.

Except for two years of Labour rule in a national unity government, the Likud was in power from 1977 until Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party's upset victory in 1992.

Recent opinion polls have shown that Mr. Netanyahu would win elections for prime minister if they were held today.

But Mr. Levy, a Moroccan-born immigrant from the northern Israeli development town of Beit Shean, could draw the large portion of the Likud consti-

tuency made up of Jews of Middle Eastern origin, or Sephardim.

"I am preparing in the field... creating a party that will be a central party, a social nationalist party," Mr. Levy said on Israel television.

It will be first of all a democratic party with representatives from the field. It will be people who will add not just honour but hope to the political arena in Israel. They will be from all the (societal) layers."

Mr. Levy left the Likud in June saying he would build a home "for all Israelis."

His base of support, the Sephardim, make up half of Israel's 4.5 million Jews. Most, however, fall socially and economically behind Jews of European descent.

Polls have indicated Mr. Levy would get the support of some five per cent of the Israeli voters, but he might also rally broader support by attracting Sephardi politi-

cians from other parties. Mr. Levy, who in the past has called for halting the peace process, criticised the government Friday for not communicating with the people.

"People are terrified for their security, for the security of their families," Mr. Levy said. "Understand their concerns, their fears, when the government does not include them, does not tell them where it is going when it is talking about their lives, their future."

But some Labour officials have suggested Mr. Levy could join a dovish coalition government led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. This could assist Mr. Rabin in forming a majority government if he wins the first direct elections for Israeli prime minister in 1996.

Mr. Levy also bashed his long-time party rival Mr. Netanyahu for failing to unite the opposition and for not giving



David Levy

alternatives to the current peace process.

Mr. Levy and Mr. Netanyahu fell out when the latter took control of the Likud Party after the 1992 national elections. Since then harsh accusations, including an unsubstantiated claim by Mr. Netanyahu that Mr. Levy tried to blackmail him during the race, led to the eventual split.

Mr. Levy said the new party would be named in December when it is officially established.

U.S., Jordan sharing information on Iraqi defections

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States and Jordan are sharing some information about the defection of top aides of Saddam Hussein, the White House said Aug. 11.

President Clinton telephoned King Hussein again Aug. 11, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry told reporters, and "discussed the status of the defections."

Mr. McCurry would not reveal the content of the conversation between the president and the King, but he asserted it is now more clear than ever that the quartet from Saddam Hussein's inner circle fled to Jordan because of "deplorable conditions" inside Iraq and because of the dictator's "loss of credibility" as Iraq's leader.

The party of defections included Saddam Hussein's daughters, Raghad and Rana, and their husbands, both military officers high in his councils, and their fami-

lies. Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel had been in charge of developing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction before the Gulf war and of military and industrial production since. His brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, was in charge of Iraqi special forces. According to news reports, an unspecified number of other military officers defected with the Kamels.

U.S. officials previously had told reporters Hussein Kamel was in a position to reveal a plethora of data about Iraq's attempts to hide nuclear, chemical and biological weapons from United Nations inspectors after the Gulf war. In addition, both Kamels were said to be privy to a vast quantity of information about Saddam Hussein's regime, including information about elements providing the dictator with personal security.

Mr. McCurry would not divulge to questioners any

information about what the Kamels may have told Jordanian de-briefers. He said King Hussein told Clinton he was "grateful" for the president's public warning against any sort of retaliation against Jordan for granting asylum to the Iraqi party. "We are in close contact with the government of Jordan," he said, "about the discussions underway" in Amman.

Mr. McCurry would not say whether U.S. officials are participating in the debriefing. When asked if Washington was getting any information from Jordan, he replied, "I just told you the president and the King talked and they shared some information on the defections. So of course we are in consultation."

At the State Department, deputy spokesman David Johnson said the defections "highlight how isolated Saddam Hussein has become in Iraq, how serious the political disagreement with his policies has become, and how serious splits have become within the ruling clique. The defections represent a serious setback to his regime."

He said the defections also demonstrate that the United States policy of holding fast to the sanctions regime until Iraq has met all of its United Nations Security Council resolutions is working.

King Hussein's decision to grant the defections asylum was "an act of political courage and we have assured him the United States will stand with him against any threat of Iraqi retaliation," the deputy spokesman said.

"I've seen no evidence of military moves directly related to these defections," Mr. Johnson told questioners. He noted that Saddam Hussein had sent his oldest son to Jordan as an emissary in an unsuccessful effort to

persuade the defections to return home. "I believe he has since departed," he said.

While there is no evidence of Iraqi moves directly related to the defections, "the record of Saddam Hussein, makes it prudent to prepare for such threats," the deputy spokesman said.

Mr. Johnson refused to answer questions about whether U.S. officials have met, or plan to meet, with the two Iraqi defectors. However, he acknowledged that Hussein Kamel could certainly "provide a great deal of information which might prove very useful" to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, which since the Gulf war has conducted recurring inspections to determine whether or not Iraq has developed weapons of mass destruction.

Information from the defectors could help Ekeus "in pursuing his objective of de-

NEWS IN BRIEF

14 militants killed in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — The army has killed 14 Kurdish militants during raids in the southeast along the borders with Iran, Iraq and Syria, official sources said Saturday. The raids took place in Hakkari and Van along the Iraqi and Iranian borders, and in Mardin near Syria as well as in the eastern regions of Bitlis and Bingol. The Anatolian news agency said, quoting officials in Diyarbakir. The agency did not specify when the attacks occurred, but the army carries out almost daily raids against suspected militants of the out separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). More than 20,000 people, including soldiers, civilians and militants have been killed in the fighting which erupted 11 years ago. The PKK wants an independent Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey.

Kuwait airport traffic hits record high

KUWAIT (R) — Passenger and cargo traffic volumes at the Kuwait international airport registered record highs in July 1995, a civil aviation official said on Saturday. "Kuwait international airport achieved an unprecedented growth in international airport traffic in July," Fawaz Al Farah, passenger and air cargo traffic in July. Fawaz Al Farah, director of air transport at the directorate general of civil aviation said in a statement. Passengers flying to and from Kuwait totalled 356,546, a rise of seven per cent compared to July 1994. Air cargo volume handled through the airport to July 1994, an increase of eight per cent. Mr. Farah said. State-owned Kuwait Airways Corporation's share of passenger traffic was 62 per cent and of air cargo traffic 73 per cent. Mr. Farah said without giving market share comparisons for July 1994.

Cyprus sends aid to Krajina Serbs

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus has sent two planes full of humanitarian aid to the Krajina Serbs fleeing their homes in the wake of the Croatian offensive in the former Yugoslavia, the official CNA news agency said Saturday. The aid, consisting of 1.5 tonnes of medicine and 10 tonnes of food supplies, left Larnaca airport late Friday on board two flights headed for Belgrade, the agency said. The Civil Servants Union in Cyprus organised the aid and is sending a delegation of nine doctors and seven nurses on Saturday to the town of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia, where many refugees have fled. A third flight, loaded with 12 tonnes of food, will leave for Yugoslavia on Tuesday. The Cyprus government has expressed "grave concern" about developments in the former Yugoslavia and in particular "the human tragedy created and accentuated by the Croatian offensive against Krajina," the agency said. The government has pledged large quantities of medical supplies and baby food. The union has also pledged 40,000 Cyprus pounds (\$90,000) in aid for Serb refugees while the Church of Cyprus announced donations of 20,000 pounds.

Iran wrestler rather loses than meet Israeli

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian wrestler taking part in a world championship has thrown away a match in order to avoid meeting an Israeli at a later stage, Tehran Radio said on Friday. "Since Iran does not recognise a country by the name of Israel... it was deemed best that he lose this easy match so that he would not later have to face (an Israeli wrestler)," the radio said. The radio was referring to Amir Reza Khadem losing on Thursday to Turkey's Sabahattin Ozurk in the first round of the World Free Wrestling Championship in Atlanta, Khadem, a 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze medalist, lost the 82-kg weight category match on warnings after one minute 30 seconds, the radio said. Iranian Television said Khadem may have been barred from the championship if he had beaten Ozurk and then refused to meet the Israeli wrestler, losing his chance for a bronze medal. It did not give the name of the Israeli wrestler. Khadem was intentionally backing off instead of actively facing Ozurk in order to lose on warnings, it said. Iran has consistently refused to compete against the Jewish state, which it sees as Islam's arch-enemy, in international sports meets.

JORDAN TELEVISION

77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

- 14:00 The Flintstones
- 14:30 The Mighty Jungle
- 15:00 Pugsall Summer
- 15:30 Movie Magic
- 16:00 Families
- 17:00 Children's Programme — Spiro
- 17:30 Riptage — Envoy Special
- 18:00 News in French
- 19:15 Ushaina
- 19:30 News Headlines
- 19:35 Diving in the Red Sea
- 20:00 Nurses
- 20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
- 21:15 Sorblair
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:25 Counterstrike
- 23:30 The Hidden Room
- 23:59 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:27 Fajr
- 05:52 (Sunrise) Dhuha
- 12:41 Dhuhur
- 16:20 'Asr
- 19:29 Maghreb
- 20:54 'Isha

CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church
- Sweetfield, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De in Salfie Church Tel. 661757

- Terrace Church Tel. 622266
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
- Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625256
- Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
- Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
- St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
- Armenian International Church Tel. 771331
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
- German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
- The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
- Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
- The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot weather conditions will prevail with temperatures five degrees Celsius above average and winds northwesterly to northeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

- Min./Max. temp. 23/37
- Aqaba 27/42
- Deserts 20/40
- Jordan Valley 26/41

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 37, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent. Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

- AMMAN: Dr. Mubillah Halasa 819220
- Dr. Ghaleb Zawadeh 736011
- Dr. Yousef Faqih 756988
- Dr. Mohammed Shoaib 632693
- Firas pharmacy 661912
- Al Asiri pharmacy 783336
- Nairokh pharmacy 623672
- Al Salam pharmacy 636230
- Shneissan pharmacy 637660
- Nairokh pharmacy 623672
- Najih pharmacy 847632

- Civil Defence Department 661111
- Civil Defence Immediate 630341
- Rescue Police 192, 821111, 637777
- Fire Brigade 617101
- Blood Bank 775121
- Highway Police 843402
- Traffic Police 863930
- Public Security Department 630321
- Hotel Complaints 605890
- Price Complaints 661176
- Water and Sewerage 897467
- Amman Municipality 771111
- Complaints 771111
- Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
- Overseas Calls 010230
- Central Amman Telephone 623101
- Repairs 623101
- Abdoli Telephone Repairs 661101
- Jordan Television 774111
- Radio Jordan 774111
- Water Authority 680100
- Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
- Electric Power Company 636381
- RJ Flight Information 08-53200
- Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

- Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
- Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

- 05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
- 06:45 Agaba (RJ)
- 09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
- 09:55 Laraca (RJ)
- 10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
- 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
- 10:30 Agaba (RJ)
- 10:35 Beirut (RJ)
- 10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
- 17:45 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
- 18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
- 18:50 London (RJ)
- 19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
- 19:15 Athens (RJ)
- 19:25 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
- 19:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
- 20:40 Rome (RJ)
- 20:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 22:35 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
- 00:30 Cairo (RJ)
- 01:15 Agaba (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

- 05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
- 06:45 Agaba (RJ)
- 09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
- 09:55 Laraca (RJ)
- 10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
- 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
- 10:30 Agaba (RJ)
- 10:35 Beirut (RJ)
- 10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
- 17:45 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
- 18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
- 18:50 London (RJ)
- 19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
- 19:15 Athens (RJ)
- 19:25 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
- 19:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
- 20:40 Rome (RJ)
- 20:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 22:35 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
- 00:30 Cairo (RJ)
- 01:15 Agaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 11:30 Sanaa (Y)
- 13:40 Bahrain, Sharjah (QF)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Dep. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

- Apple 700/520
- Banana 620
- Banana (Mukammal) 680
- Carrot 110/60
- Cauliflower 240/140
- Cucumbers (large) 150/100
- Cucumbers (small) 280/180
- Eggplant 190/18

Clinton's call for global ban on nuclear testing met with international backing

New Zealand navy ship leaves for Mururoa

AUCKLAND (Agencies) — The New Zealand navy ship Tui sailed from Auckland Saturday for Mururoa, where it will support the "Protest Flotilla" of private boats opposing the resumption of French nuclear tests on the atoll.

The 1000-tonne Tui, a research and survey vessel, was seen off by Prime Minister Jim Bolger and opposition Labour Party leader Helen Clark.

The ship has two New Zealand MPs aboard — Brian Neeson representing the ruling National Party and Chris Carter of the Labour Party.

The New Zealand Press Association quoted Mr. Bolger as saying the ship's trip was "the most visible protest" New Zealand could make over the test programme.

"We think it's wrong. We think the French should change their minds," he said. "It's not too late to change that decision. It would be right to change that decision."

Mr. Bolger also said he was "very happy" with U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement Friday of support for a complete test ban.

"The pressure will continue to grow. The French government must understand that this is not something

that is going to vanish in the night. It is going to continue to grow, it is becoming more universal," he said.

On Friday, France welcomed Mr. Clinton's backing for a global ban on all nuclear testing, including small-scale experiments, saying it matched France's intentions after a final series of tests.

France, trying to calm a storm of international protests over its plans to stage eight nuclear tests in the South Pacific from September to May, had said a day before that it would also support a "true zero" ban after it completes the tests.

"The French government is delighted by the position adopted by the United States," an official statement said.

Mr. Clinton's decision ended a debate within the administration over whether the United States would try to exempt small nuclear testing from the worldwide Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) being negotiated in Geneva, U.S. officials said.

French President Jacques Chirac has said that France will sign the CTBT after the last series of eight tests, which he says are vital to check the reliability of France's nuclear arsenal.

Also on Friday, the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution

calling on France to call off nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Introduced by Democratic Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, the non-binding "sense of the Senate" resolution was attached as an amendment to the 1996 defense spending bill.

It says France "should abide by the current international moratorium on nuclear test explosions, refrain from proceeding with its announced intention of conducting a series of nuclear tests in advance of a comprehensive test ban treaty, and initiate preparations to close its underground test sites at the Mururoa and Fangataua atolls."

In a statement, the senator said that because of the urgency of the situation, he insisted that the resolution be adopted before the Senate began its summer break Friday.

He cited reports that France has readied four of the eight planned nuclear tests and said it was likely the first of them could be detonated later this month.

In Tokyo, the Japanese government welcomed Washington's call for a total ban on nuclear arms tests, saying that it corresponded with Tokyo's policy on testing.

"It has been Japan's policy to call for a total ban on nu-

clear tests ... (and we) wholeheartedly welcome the U.S. decision," Japan's foreign ministry spokesman said in a written statement.

The statement was released after Mr. Clinton's announcement.

Japan said it hoped Mr. Clinton's statement would accelerate moves to reach an early agreement on CTBT.

"Japan will step up efforts to work for an early agreement for CTBT negotiations," the foreign ministry spokesman said.

The Australian government also welcomed the decision announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton to ban all nuclear tests next year which was described by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans as a major "policy breakthrough."

"I warmly welcome President Clinton's commitment to a zero threshold test ban treaty," Mr. Evans said.

"This is the second major nuclear policy breakthrough in a week and gives strong grounds for confidence that we will have a genuinely comprehensive test ban treaty in place next year."

Mr. Evans said Australians had reason to be pleased that progress was being made, adding: "Australia has been actively and strongly lobbying on this issue and we are very pleased with the progress being made."



New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger speaks from the New Zealand navy ship Tui in Auckland Saturday. The ship, with two New Zealand MPs on board, sailed from Auckland to Mururoa, French Polynesia, where it will support the "protest flotilla" (AFP photo)

Thief's haul of rare books to be sold at auction

LONDON (AFP) — Thousands of books stolen over a period of more than 30 years by a British theology and philosophy buff are to be sold at auction, police said Saturday. Duncan Jevons, a former theology student who worked on a turkey farm, was arrested in 1993 while stealing a book in the northern city of Carlisle. When police visited his home they were surprised to discover that Mr. Jevons, 50, had made a career of stealing books, accumulating a collection of 52,000 since the age of 19. Mr. Jevons' thirst for knowledge and lack of funds led him to pilfer tomes including many highly valued rare books — not only from bookstores but also from universities, libraries, museums and churches throughout the country. Sentenced to 15 months in prison, Mr. Jevons agreed to cooperate with police, who were able to return some 40,000 books to their owners. The remaining 12,000 books will be auctioned Aug. 25 in Suffolk. Proceeds will compensate the police force, which had employed six men full time for two years to track down the books' owners.

Owner sues breeder for selling dog with defective fang

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — A dog owner has sued a breeder for \$36,326 for selling him a German shepherd with a defective fang, a newspaper reported Friday. C.G.A. Fonseka, vice president of the Malaysian Kennel Association, claimed in his suit that one of the dog's fangs fractured, decayed and fell off one year after he bought it for \$6,120. Mr. Fonseka said the breeder, Mahinder Singh Khalsa, failed to inform him at the time of the sale in 1991 that the dog had undergone an operation on its fang, the New Straits Times reported. Mr. Fonseka said he could not enter the dog, Vikas Neigus, in dog shows as a result of the missing fang, resulting in a loss to his reputation as an exhibitor. He also lost the benefit of owning a champion dog, Mr. Fonseka said in his suit. The case will be heard on Feb. 28. Mr. Fonseka is claiming damages for breach of contract, misrepresentation and deceit.

Condemned man revived after overdose, then executed

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — Prison officials revived a condemned killer who apparently overdosed on drugs before his execution and then put him to death several hours later with a lethal injection, officials said on Friday. Robert Brecheen, 40, was executed at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary for killing a woman in a 1983 robbery attempt. His last appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court was rejected on Thursday and, three hours before the scheduled execution, he was found unconscious apparently from a drug overdose, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections said. The convict was rushed to hospital, revived and returned to prison for the execution. Prison official Ken Klinger said Mr. Brecheen spoke normally in a brief statement before dying. Oklahoma law requires that condemned prisoners be coherent to face execution. "He didn't stutter, his speech wasn't slurred," said Mr. Klinger, who was present at the execution. None of Mr. Brecheen's family witnessed the execution. But one of Mr. Brecheen's lawyers said an investigator sent to the prison to check whether the condemned man was lucid said "he was still disoriented" before being killed.

Nationalist demonstrators and police clash in Belfast

BELFAST (AFP) — Two people were injured, including a police officer, during clashes Saturday between the security forces and nationalist demonstrators in Belfast.

Police fired rubber bullets, and several dozen residents of the Ormeau Road threw stones and bottles back in an effort to prevent about 30 Protestants marching through their neighbourhood.

One nationalist demonstrator was injured by a rubber bullet and a police officer was hurt by a stone.

After the clashes, the march eventually passed down the Ormeau Road, under heavy police protection. Police turned out in force for another possible

flashpoint, a Protestant march in Londonderry, in the north of the province, through the Catholic Bogside District. But the march passed without any major incidents.

Martin McGuinness, the number two in Sinn Fein — the political wing of the Irish Republican Army — joined about 100 nationalists in sitting down on the route of the march.

Police removed them without any violence and when some 300 Protestant marchers passed, the nationalist demonstrators simply turned their backs in a silent protest. August 12 is the traditional day for Protestant marches to be organised by the "Apprentice Boys", an organisation founded in 1714 to celebrate the 13 youths who closed the gates of Londonderry in the face of James II's besieging army in 1689.

In 1969, a similar march along the old city walls overlooking the Bogside, led to violent clashes in the district, prompting the British government to send in the troops to Ulster for the first time.

The violence lasted several days and spread to other parts of the province, killing eight people, seven of them in Belfast.

A second Apprentice Boys march was scheduled for Saturday, but following a less controversial route.

Indian police deployed near ancient mosque to prevent communal violence as Hindu militants threaten showdown

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Thousands of federal policemen were being rushed to the northern Indian town of Mathura where a Hindu religious group has planned a rally close to an ancient mosque, according to official sources.

Authorities have banned the religious rally, scheduled to begin Aug. 15, fearing that Hindu religious leaders may incite crowds to destroy the mosque that some Hindu groups say is located at the birthplace of Lord Krishna, an important Hindu deity.

But the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council) has decided to press ahead with a religious ceremony near the Islamic shrine despite a ban by the local administration.

"There is no way we can change our plans," said Ghulam Singh Parihar, general secretary of the VHP chapter in Uttar Pradesh state, where Mathura is located.

Parihar said in a telephone interview from the Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow that tens of thousands of Hindus would gather on August 18 in Mathura, some

140 kilometres south of here.

Officials have banned the VHP programme fearing that Hindu zealots could use the occasion to attack the mosque which Hindu leaders say was erected by Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb after razing part of a Hindu temple.

The temple was dedicated to the Hindu God Krishna, who Hindus believe was born into a family of cowherds in Mathura and rose to become its ruler after killing a demon king.

The mosque and Krishna temple exist side by side, drawing Hindus and Muslims in the thousands.

A similar show of strength by thousands of VHP activists in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya on December 6, 1992 led to the razing of a 16th-century mosque, triggering an orgy of Hindu-Muslim violence across India.

Nearly 2,000 people were killed and thousands more injured in the mayhem that followed the ayodhya sacrifice. VHP activists quickly built a makeshift temple to the Hindu warrior-god Ram

on the rubble of the Babri Mosque.

The Uttar Pradesh government wants the VHP to shift its proposed ceremony, which coincides with Lord Krishna's birthday, to a place nearly three kilometres away from the temple-mosque complex.

The authorities have thrown a security ring around the mosque. Hundreds of heavily armed police, paramilitary troops and sniffer dogs have been deployed to prevent possible violence.

A state official said the VHP would not be allowed to hold any ceremony near the Islamic shrine.

The VHP, however, is refusing to back down, setting the stage for a confrontation.

"We are firm in our decision and there is no question of shifting the (ceremony's) venue," Ram Pahal, a VHP leader, said after a meeting on Friday with Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati.

"It is our religious right which the government is trying to curb," said the VHP's

parihar. "The government believes there could be violence that day. But we have said we have no such intention."

Parihar reiterated that the VHP wanted Muslims to give up control of the Mathura Mosque and another 17th-century Islamic shrine in the northern town of Varanasi which also Hindu claim was built on the ruins of a temple.

"Hindu society will never give up its claim to these mosques," he said. "The Mathura programme stands. We will go ahead with it regardless of the consequences."

The VHP threat has angered Muslims, the largest religious minority in this predominantly-Hindu nation of 900 million.

"The VHP's one point agenda is to whip up communal tension," said Ahmad Bukhari, deputy priest of the New Delhi-based Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. "It is the government's responsibility to save the Mathura Mosque."

"If anything happens to it, the consequences would be grave," he warned.

Alleged ETA killers detail plot against King Juan

MADRID (AFP) — The leader of a Basque commando arrested for plotting to kill Spain's King Juan Carlos confessed Saturday and said if they had failed to assassinate the monarch, they would have turned their guns on Crown Prince Felipe or opposition leader Jose Maria Aznar, judicial sources said.

The three, suspected members of the Basque separatist movement ETA, were questioned throughout the night by anti-terrorist Judge Baltazar Garzon.

Early Saturday Mr. Garzon ordered the three held without bail on charges of plotting to kill the head of state, membership of an armed group, possession of arms and explosives and falsifying personal and official documents.

He also ordered the arrest of Inaki Gracia Arregui, believed to be the top ETA leader, and another ETA chief Jose Javier Arizcuren Ruiz on suspicion of having masterminded the assassination plot.

Judicial sources said the other two members of the commando group, Mr. Rego's son Inaki and Jorge Garcia Sertucha, refused to answer any questions.

But they said Mr. Rego confirmed that the main objective of the plot was to kill the king and that the assassination had been planned for Sunday.

Failing that, the sources said, their next target was the king's son and heir Felipe, who, with the rest of his family, was spending the summer at the royal palace in Palma de Mallorca.

Their third target was Mr. Aznar, head of the Popular Party (PP) and likely successor to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in upcoming elections, who escaped an ETA assassination attempt in Madrid in April.

Mr. Rego reportedly told Mr. Garzon that his team, stationed in an apartment near the royal holiday residence and yacht, had had Juan Carlos "in their sights" on three occasions between August 4 and 6 but did not fire due to the heavy police presence in the area.

The judicial sources said final details of the plan were worked out between the Rego, Arregui and Ruiz trio at a meeting in May in the southern French city of Toulouse.

The Spanish authorities believe the ETA's decision to target the highest echelons of the state is a response to recent police successes which have considerably weakened the organisation.

Taleban to exchange sick Russian captive

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (R) — An Afghan militia commander holding seven Russian airmen said on Saturday he would allow a seriously ill captive to be flown out of Afghanistan for treatment if his company provided a replacement.

"We told the company five days ago that this man was sick and we agreed then to let the exchange take place," Mullah Mohammad Ali Khan, a commander of the Islamic Taleban militia, told reporters.

A doctor flown in by the Sharjah-based Russian air company said engineer Viktor Riazanov, 46, was "in critical condition" in a Kandahar hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Russian parliament sets stage for December poll

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's lower house of parliament overturned an upper house veto of a draft law on creating constituency boundaries on Saturday, setting the stage for a parliamentary election on December 17.

But the chamber failed to overturn a veto by President Boris Yeltsin on a separate draft law on forming the upper house, or Federation Council.

The failure made it unlikely that voters will also elect the upper house in December. Deputies in the state Duma, or lower house, broke off their summer holidays to hold a special session to try to end an impasse caused by the Federa-

tion Council's decision last month to reject the Duma's draft law on setting electoral boundaries.

A total of 350 of the 450 Duma deputies voted without a debate to overturn the veto — well over the two-thirds support required.

The draft now needs Mr. Yeltsin's approval to become law and he is widely expected to back it.

Failure to overturn the upper house's veto — which was prompted by the council's objections to some provisions of the draft law — would have left Russia without a law defining the boundaries of 225 constituencies four months before

the poll.

The other 225 seats in the Duma are to be elected on party lists.

Mr. Yeltsin's aides had suggested the impasse could have been settled by a presidential decree. But many Duma deputies were worried that parties which do badly in the election could have used the absence of a law to challenge the result.

The Duma failed to break another impasse over a separate draft law on the formation of the Federation Council which was vetoed by Mr. Yeltsin on Saturday. A total of 280 deputies voted to overturn Mr. Yeltsin's veto.

British over

LONDON (R) — War veterans gave a warm welcome to a Japanese Prime Minister's expression of remorse to British soldiers during World War II. But many veterans did not go for a personal apology from one from Japan. They also did not make any about compensation. "It seems to be a period of getting round the fact. It is an apology from the country, not from the people," said Payne, president of the National Federation of Veterans' groups.

A British spokeswoman said that Mr. Murayama's letter sent a letter to Prime Minister John Major expressing "profound remorse" for Japan's actions in a period of the past war caused such unbearable suffering and sorrow for many people. The spokeswoman said the first written expression of remorse from Japan was a written statement of this sort. She said the Japanese embassy in London said the letter had merely confirmed statements made to Major during a visit.

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People come first

WHEN THE international community amassed its troops to drive Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991, Jordan was a lonely voice in urging an Arab solution to the conflict. Though it was among the first countries to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Jordan held firm against causing the Arab region more suffering by correcting a wrong with another wrong. Jordan's stand was predicated on its belief in, and concern for, protecting the interests of the Arabs, whether they are Iraqis or Kuwaitis. Though the price Jordan paid for its stand was enormous, Jordanians never regretted their country's stand because their principles are not there to compromise on and we are not a people for sale.

It is against this background of concern for the interest of the Arab people everywhere that Jordan's decision to grant political asylum to former Iraqi Minister of Industries Hussein Kamel Hassan should be seen. Gen. Hassan is a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein who had held many a sensitive and influential position in Iraq. He thus knows of the support that the Kingdom has been giving to the Iraqi people whose suffering has reached intolerable proportions. So when he, himself part of the Iraqi regime, became convinced of the urgent need for change to end the miseries with which the Iraqis are living on daily basis, Gen. Hassan, along with his brother and their wives, President Saddam's two daughters, fled to Jordan to tell the world that enough is enough, that the Iraqis should not have to suffer any more.

No-one can deny the sensitivity of Jordan's decision to host the Iraqi guest and allow him to speak out against the grave mistakes that his father-in-law's regime has committed to the detriment of Iraq and its people. But not many should be surprised at Jordan's willingness to accept dealing with the consequences of this awkward situation because no-one should expect the Kingdom to turn its back on a plea for help aimed at alleviating the suffering of an Arab people.

Jordan has repeatedly asserted its adherence to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. But it has stressed more vehemently its concern for the well-being of other Arabs, for democracy and human rights everywhere. Gen. Hassan came to Jordan seeking political asylum. The Kingdom granted him his request in line with a tradition of welcoming all Arab nationals in need of safety and protection. In Jordan, the general chose to speak out against the damaging effects that the policies of the Iraqi regime has had on Iraqis. He believes the time has come for that regime to go, for the Iraqi people to live peacefully in the community of nations. It is his right to do so, and Jordan granted him that right, even though the situation is sensitive, precarious and dangerous. He, a long time of confident of the Iraqi regime, should know what he is talking about.

Jordan, meanwhile, can only continue its policy of extending help to any Arab country or individual that needs it. What the Kingdom is most concerned about now is the well-being of the Iraqi people as a whole. It is up to the Iraqis themselves to decide how the Kingdom can be of assistance to them in their hour of need.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily urged Hussein Kamel Hassan, the former Iraqi minister of minerals and industries and head of the military industrialisation programme who defected to Jordan, not to reveal any of Iraq's secrets to the West. Even if he told lies the United States and Rolf Ekeus, the head of a U.N. team responsible for dismantling Iraq's weapons, would find in his statement an excuse for maintaining the sanctions on Iraq, causing greater sufferings for its people, said Taher Al Adwan. The writer expressed the view that Hussein Hassan has defected for personal reasons and due to disputes with the Iraqi leadership and not because of political differences since he has assumed a key position in Iraq. He said the defection of a handful of senior officers would not shake the military leadership in Iraq but these officers' statements, whatever nature they would have, would be employed as a tool by the West to perpetuate the sanctions. Hussein Kamel Hassan could if he chooses, remain silent and save his people further sufferings and could opt to utter statements that would be used as a weapon by Washington against the Iraqi people and prompt the Security Council to extend the sanctions for more months or years.

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Saturday discussed industrial pollution in the Ruseifa and Zarqa areas which he said has been a source of danger to the whole country. A recent visit by concerned ministers to the factories set up in the two areas revealed that the environment situation is in grave danger due to the waste dumped by the factories into the Zarqa River, which flows into the King Talal Dam that supplies water to the farmlands in the Jordan Valley, said the writer, Nazih. The question of pollution resulting from these factories had long been discussed and the factories were ordered to install special equipment for treating the waste, but, according to the ministers report, most of these factories have failed to comply with the order, continued the writer.

Sunday's economic pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Close the investment window!

OVER 40 years a stream of laws meant to encourage investment have produced no success. Five versions of legislation have so far failed to attract substantial investments from abroad. In fact most Arab and foreign investments that took place in Jordan in the past year were in activities that are not covered by the Investment Encouragement Law and did not benefit from its generous exemptions, especially the long tax holiday.

In practice, the law acted as a large loophole, where smart Jordanian businessmen were able to capitalise on. They were able to invest and make handsome profits without having to contribute a penny to the treasury.

To abolish the law, or at least to change it, was inevitable. In particular the bad idea of prolonged tax holiday should be removed. This is exactly what the government is trying to do, as the new draft law is currently under consideration in the Finance Committee of the Parliament.

Under the present law, the owners of projects enjoyed an absolute exemption of all taxes for five to fifteen years. Once this holiday expired, and the project was required to pay income tax on its profits, the owners would abandon it and start a new project of the same line, and a new tax holiday. In many cases they would give rise to capital gains in the old project which are tax exempt under the Income Tax Law, and start to redepreciate the same assets in the new project based on their exaggerated cost to earn a current profit which is tax exempt under Investment Encouragement Law. The government used to play the role of the dump, pretending not to know what was going on.

The new law, however continued to provide a sort of exemption in favour of certain activities such as hotels, hospitals and transport projects, despite the fact that such sectors no more need incentives, as they are now attractive on their own, and without the treasury having to throw money on them.

On the other hand, the erroneous impression among officials that underdevelopment is confined to the southern governorates still exists. The fact is that the governorates of

the north are equally or perhaps more underdeveloped. Their need to have incentives is not less than the need of Ma'an, Kerak, and Tafila. In fact Irbid, Ma'raq and Ajloun hardly know the concept of share holding companies.

Again the new draft law called for the establishment of an Investment Window which did not prove its usefulness. The Investment Window is meant to relieve the new investor of submitting his/her application directly to all competent authorities, on the assumption that the employees representing those authorities in the Investment Window will do the job on his/her behalf, taking the application to their superiors and coming back with their final decisions. The applicant is supposed to stay at home and rest assured that the fate of his application is in safe hands.

An investor must be extremely careless to submit his application to the window and hope for a favourably reply. It is only natural for him/her to call on the authorities concerned, accompanied by his/her expert assistants and consultants to speak to the officials face to face, see their reservation and respond to them, and discuss conditions if any.

The Investment Window does not eliminate the steps of the licensing process, it does not reduce the number of signatures required. All that it does is to expect the investor to delegate the job to the employees representing the ministries and departments concerned, to follow up his/her application with their respective ministries and departments. It is a disservice that no really motivated investor would accept. Even decision-makers in the ministries and departments concerned would not like to look at dead papers and make a crucial decision without having to enquire from the investor about certain aspects of his project, and without discussing issues with him, just to save time and come up with a reply within 30 or 60 days. It is safer under the circumstances to give a negative reply, because some paper or piece of information may be missing.

Our deputies in the Parliament should kill this bad idea of Investment Window because it is counterproductive.

Clinton suggests Iraqi regime losing its grip; some experts doubt

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is portraying the defections of two of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's daughters and their husbands as evidence that the Iraqi leader is losing his grip, but some private analysts say the meaning is far from clear.

President Clinton on Thursday publicly praised His Majesty King Hussein for granting the defectors asylum and said he had personally assured the King the United States would come to Jordan's defence if Iraq threatened military retaliation.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Ken Bacon said an Iraqi military move against Jordan appeared unlikely, but that whatever Iraq's response, the 20,000 U.S. troops in the Gulf region were "highly ready and highly mobile." Mr. Bacon said the Pentagon was "decidedly not" moving or increasing its forces there.

The defectors were two of President Saddam's daughters and their husbands, Hussein and Saddam Kamel, who are brothers. At least two dozen military officers also left and were given asylum in Jordan.

The Kamel brothers are paternal cousins of the Iraqi president and are members of a tribal faction that

has been at odds with President Saddam in the past over issues involving money, power and foreign policy, said Kenneth Katzman, a specialist in Iraqi affairs at the Congressional Research Service.

The Kamels were important figures. Maj. Gen. Hussein Kamel Al Majid was fired Wednesday as industry minister; he had been head of Iraq's weapons program, or even that they represented more than a temporary rift rooted in a dispute over money and the degree of Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions imposed after the 1991 war.

"This is basically a family squabble," the congressional researcher said. "In my view, there are not broader implications." Michael Eisenstadt, a Middle East expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said he, too, believed it was too early to draw hard conclusions, except that the defections showed "increased distress" among the Iraqi elite.

Pentagon spokesman Bacon said U.S. intelligence had picked up indications of "some preparations" by Iraqi Republican Guard military units in their garrisons, but concluded, "these do not seem to be threatening at this time." He said some tanks or artillery had been moved out of

off Russia and some U.S. allies in maintaining economic sanctions designed to wreck the Iraqi economy.

It was too early to know what these preparatory moves might mean, he said. "They might just be preparing to repaint a couple of howitzers or something, I don't know," Mr. Bacon said.

The 20,000 U.S. troops in the region include sailors and naval aviators aboard 19 warships, including the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier battle group, Mr. Bacon said. A large number of air force warplanes also are on standby there.

In what Mr. Bacon said was strictly a coincidence, about 2,000 U.S. marines are on their way to the Red Sea waters off Jordan for a training exercise with Jordanian forces that is scheduled to begin Monday and last through the end of the month.

The marines are members of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which has been deployed in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. They are aboard four amphibious assault ships, including the USS New Orleans, a helicopter landing ship.

The exercise, code named "Operation Infinite Midnight," has been in the planning for months as part of a routine series of U.S.-Jordanian joint manoeuvres, said a Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Scott Campbell.

Spanish right looks to rise from Franco's ashes

By Gideon Long
Reuters

MADRID — Spain's hard-line nationalists, angered by the country's political malaise, say they are finally reemerging from the 20-year shadow cast by Europe's last right-wing dictatorship.

Earlier this year, four parties put aside longstanding differences to form the Alliance for National Unity (AUN), defining itself as "a radical nationalist Spanish movement." The AUN wants abortion outlawed, regional parties seeking autonomy from Spain banned, and the death penalty reintroduced for convicted terrorists.

It has launched a campaign of street posters and public meetings to widen its appeal and help shrug off the staid legacy of General Francisco Franco's 36-year rule.

The AUN says its forthright policies are striking a chord with young Spaniards

fed up with endless corruption scandals and mounting social problems.

"We're attracting support more quickly than we imagined when we formed in March," said Jose Luis Corral, director of the Spanish Catholic Movement (MCE). "Interest in the alliance has been overwhelming."

The MCE spearheads the alliance with the Spanish Social Movement (MSE) led by Ricardo Ynestillas. "To be radical is not such a bad thing," Mr. Ynestillas told Reuters. "People confuse radicalism with violence or tyranny... and they are not the same at all."

Mr. Ynestillas says the AUN is not a rightist movement, although his own far-right antecedents are clear.

He counts "Franco and the founders of national socialism" as political mentors and a portrait of Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera, a founder of Spanish fascism, hangs on his office wall.

"Francisco Franco, without any shadow of doubt, was the greatest statesman of this century," Mr. Ynestillas said. "But I'm not a Francoist. I believe Francoism died when Franco died. We have to move on from Franco."

He says Spain, with the highest unemployment rate in the European Union (EU), a burgeoning crime rate and a government looking shakier everyday, needs a popular nationalist movement similar to Jean-Marie Le Pen's French National Front.

"I only wish we had a Le Pen in Spain who could defend our interests as well as he has defended the interests of France," he said.

Some rightists have seen Mr. Ynestillas as a Spanish Le Pen.

The son of an army officer murdered by Eta guerrillas (Basque homeland and freedom) in 1985, he recently served two and a half years of a 153-year prison sentence for allegedly killing a radical Basque politi-

sheds but "haven't gone anywhere."

It was too early to know what these preparatory moves might mean, he said. "They might just be preparing to repaint a couple of howitzers or something, I don't know," Mr. Bacon said.

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Lines on a map do not make neighbours of enemies

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

BY THE point of a gun or the points of a peace plan, the object of the bloody game in Yugoslavia is to carve up territory into ethnic slices. But what the mapmaker's "peace," experience shows is often no peace at all.

A lightning offensive by the Croatian army has now driven tens of thousands of Serbs from their homes in Croatia, uprooting yet one more population in the endlessly tragic Balkan conflict.

Croatia's leader says the victory will allow him to negotiate a peace. Mediators have the maps ready: Their schemes for an ethnic gerrymandering of Bosnia could be magnified into a grand, detailed settlement for all disintegrated Yugoslavia.

But a glance down the road in the Balkans, across the Mediterranean to Israel, east to India or to many other troubled lands around the globe would disillusion anyone who believes drawing a line on a map can transform mortal enemy into good neighbor.

One canny American politician — of a generation that never heard of "ethnic cleansing" — foresaw the mischief mapmakers might do.

Accompanying Woodrow Wilson to the post-World War I Paris peace conference, secretary of state Robert Lansing grew alarmed at his president's embrace of "self-determination" — the idea that each "people" in Europe and the Middle East had a right to its own state.

That sounds good on paper, Mr. Lansing confided to his diary, but "it will raise hopes which can never be realized. It will, I fear, cost thousands of lives. ... What a calamity that the phrase was ever uttered."

Adolf Hitler disagreed. Twenty years after the Paris conference, when his army marched into Czechoslovakia, the Nazi leader explained he was enforcing Wilson's "self-determination" for the German minority there.

And a half-century after that, as the Yugoslav army and Serb militias rolled across the map of Croatia and Bosnia, their stated mission was to protect the "self-determination" rights to Serb minorities in those breakaway republics.

The problem with self-determination is that "peoples" are not distributed across the landscape as neatly as a cartographer's pinks and yellows. Serbs live among Croats who live among Muslims in the former Yugoslavia. And new lines on the map leave too many on the other side.

When they created Albania in 1912, European statesmen left out half the Albanians. Their region, Kosovo, remained under Serbian control. It could be the next Balkan flashpoint.

The "answer" to the Irish question in 1921, the carve-up of the island, put an unhappy Catholic minority under Protestant domination in the north. "The troubles" resumed in 1969.

The bloody breakup of Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan in 1947 left monumental loose ends. One follow-up war spawned Bangladesh. Another goes on in Indian Kashmir. And India still has 100 million Muslims within its borders.

The meticulous maps to segregate Arab and Jew in Palestine in 1948 exploded into a half-century of war.

One-sixth of the global population, about 1.1 million people, belong to 292 groups that suffer systematic discrimination or have taken political action against the states that claim to govern them

And, as Palestine shows, even when people are pushed somewhere over the horizon, their memories cannot be "cleansed." Young Palestinian refugees in Syria still carry the key to the family house lost in Haifa two generations ago. Are the Serbs expelled last week likely to forget Kain, or the Bosnian Muslims to forsake Zepa?

No one offers quick solutions to these deep-rooted problems. But scholars who study such things say a start can be made by recognising that ethnic hatred is not some unstoppable force of nature, but often a crude tool used by political leaders to gain their own ends. Only other political leaders can stop them.

The Yugoslav kaleidoscope will settle someday on a pattern, temporarily. But Serb, Croat and Muslim will merely be yielding the headlines to others.

One-sixth of the global population, about 1.1 million people, belong to 292 groups that suffer systematic discrimination or have taken political action against the states that claim to govern them, according to the National Science Foundation's "minorities at risk" project.

The mapmakers have hard work ahead of them.

LETTERS

The midnight caller

To the Editor:

I WOULD to complain about a problem that has been plaguing us over the past few months. The problem is driving us crazy and we would appreciate it if the law or whoever it concerns could put an end to a problem involving a sick-minded person. It all started in the month of May and to this day we continue to receive phone calls between the hours of 2.30 a.m. to 3.00 a.m. from a man who talks filthy into our telephone. We are woken up from our deep sleeps only to hear a man say the rudest things into our ears. This is driving us crazy as we have been receiving his phone calls non-stop all this time.

How can a person in his right mind do such a thing over and over again? I know this man must be gravely ill at a mental level but we are also being driven mad by his consistent obscenity and disregard for our privacy.

Perhaps if I could meet this person, I would ask him if he would like someone doing the same to his mother or sister. Whoever you are, don't do to others what you don't like being done to you.

E. Lee,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

PRESIDENT Chung-Huei when he he of South Korea to arrest son's leading under the Accumulation had been p insisted, aw selves larg bonuses, man fits and refus Only when t increase in those industr government were they rel Yet despite falls from a Korea, and Asian twin, T powerful influ imagination of right. Here a emplace of the free-market ca all other forms and social orga Britain should late them. Whi sign models, a German finan the Swedish lab are regarded alien and impo produce in ind Taiwan and Se are seen as a home. Putting a few men behind bars, themselves tions rather than outout and jels an authoritarian

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By Khaled I. Reuter

HALAB TRI near the Egypt-Sudan border — The border in the desolate triangle find them the midst of a tem of war between E Sudan.

For most of the ers it does not mat country they are a but, after centuries lect, who can off more services.

Egyptian offici mate that between 20,000 people a Halab. With the of the three small Shalaten, Abu Ra Halab, there is not desert and mountain.

Just a few bedoum hes and their tent, and goats can be see few miles.

"We Egypti mad like human y said an Egyptian arm or who accompanied ters on a recent offi

New army

(Continued from pa

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Diplomats believ C may want to push back guns that can shell the romik area in, the w their successful, recast the rebel Krajina weekend.

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Features

Why the Asian tigers burn so bright

Coordinated investment lies at the heart of an economic miracle in south-east Asia, writes Will Hutton

PRESIDENT PARK Chung-Hee's first action when he became president of South Korea in 1961 was to arrest some of the country's leading businessmen under the Illicit Wealth Accumulation Act. They had been profiteering, he insisted, awarding themselves large personal bonuses, manipulating profits and refusing to invest. Only when they agreed to increase investment in those industries which the government prioritised were they released.

Yet despite such minor falls from grace, South Korea, and its dynamic Asian twin, Taiwan, exert a powerful influence on the imagination of the British right. Here are living exemplars of the triumph of free-market capitalism over all other forms of economic and social organisation, and Britain should aim to emulate them. While other foreign models, such as the German financial system or the Swedish labour market, are regarded as foreign, alien and impossible to reproduce in unique Britain, Taiwan and South Korea are seen as home from home.

Putting a few businessmen behind bars for awarding themselves stock options rather than generating output and jobs is seen as an authoritarian aberration,

part of Asian culture, which does not change the basic picture. Success is due to minimal government and regulation, low taxes and free trade, which they have exploited to produce a remarkable growth in exports.

Other developing countries tried to grow via a big state-led "growth push," usually behind highly protected domestic markets. Poor mixes. They should have followed the free-trade example of South Korea and Taiwan. However, in the latest edition of *Economic Policy*, published by the Centre for Economic Policy Research, Dani Rodrik of Columbia University paints a different picture of what lay behind South Korea and Taiwan's growth miracle. It was not education, free trade and low regulation that drove the process, he says, but investment.

Far from disproving the "big push" theory, that the state has to enter the ring and decisively change the trajectory of savings, investment and the pattern of development which otherwise gets locked into low equilibrium, Taiwan and South Korea are triumphant examples of the theory at work. Investment was held back by market failure, which lowered the expected returns; creative

government intervention unblocked the market failure, and so triggered the investment boom.

There has already been growing recognition that the Asian success story is more complicated than free-market theorists would have us believe, with the World Bank in 1993 acknowledging that Asian governments had successfully delivered a skilled and educated workforce.

In addition, South Korea and Taiwan were helped by having few groups and firms which did so well out of the status quo that they obstructed development; there was remarkable equality of income.

Sometimes, the bank conceded, "market friendly" intervention in the economy also helped, but it was reluctant to give its seal of approval to such politically incorrect notions. Exports and an "outward orientation" were the real keys to success.

Mr. Rodrik's account goes much further, and is

theoretically more interesting. Exports could not have been the driver of growth, he argues, because they represented such a small proportion of national output and the spillover effects were in any case tiny. Nor was the build-up of exports driven by super-competitive exchange rates; in both countries the real exchange rate has hardly changed over 30 years. It was not strong export growth that caused them to invest and grow; rather it was high levels of investment that delivered export growth.

So why did investment rise? Mr. Rodrik refuses to accept the new-right view that any government attempt to raise investment must be self-defeating because it will lower the rate of return. In this world-view the stock of physical capital is at some equilibrium, producing the desired rates of return entrepreneurs seek, given the cost of financial capital and entrepreneurs' assessment of

risk; a government-induced rise in the stock of capital will automatically lower this rate of return, and thus be self-defeating because it will block further investment growth.

Not so, says Mr. Rodrik. This assumes that the investment markets are perfectly coordinated, so that the cost of financial capital and the returns from physical investment have arrived at the best point of balance for the economy at large. But if there are coordination failures, so that the returns from physical investment are too low or the returns demanded by finance capital too high, it is possible for investment to get trapped at low levels.

The proof that market economies suffer from widespread coordination failures is one of the battering rams of the New Keynesian economics, using new developments in game theory to drive the point home. An article by Russell Cooper and Andrew John in New

Keynesian Economics, edited by Greg Mankiw and David Romer (MIT Press), summarises the principal arguments.

In most economic situations, they say, the pay-off of any one player's action is likely to impact on another, so that, for example, if all firms raise their investment, then returns rise rather than fall because overall demand rises. The trick is to find some way of moving from condition one to condition two, the benefits of which market prices alone cannot signal. Indeed, if there is no market incentive for any firm to change its existing strategy — which, by definition, there cannot be — the mutual gains from an all-round change of strategies can never be captured. That is a coordination failure.

Mr. Rodrik says that in the 1950s, South Korea and Taiwan were suffering acutely from such coordination failures. They had highly educated and skilled

labour forces, so that if individual firms could all be persuaded to lift investment there would be mutual benefits, but any individual firm acting alone would find the process unrewarding. Moreover, investment returns for any individual firm were depressed by the cost and difficulty of finding reliable subcontractors in an only partially industrialised economy and the prospect that, having built an expensive production run, demand would be insufficient. The economies were trapped in low-output equilibria with poor returns to new investment.

It was an array of government interventions that broke the logjam, argues Mr. Rodrik. Critically, all were within the context of relatively open economies, so that the price mechanism allowed efficient resources allocations, and within relatively egalitarian, well-educated societies. The nationalisation of the banking system by the Koreans and the introduction of the Statute for Encouragement of Investment in Taiwan were key mechanisms for lowering the cost of capital and lengthening investment time horizons, thus unravelling the coordination problem in the financial markets.

In Taiwan, a government

agency organised the dissemination of foreign technology and best practice, taking particular care to construct chains of subcontractors in sectors and industries where Taiwan had no representation. In Korea, the government allowed the emergence of huge conglomerates, in effect allowing one group to construct its own supply chain.

Public investment set out to create new industries which the market itself would not have produced, and whose establishment also generated demand for allied firms and contractors. In Taiwan, glass, cement and plastics factories were established by the state, and then handed over to private entrepreneurs; in Korea the government set up a state-owned steel mill, which is now the world's most efficient steel producer.

Herein, argues Mr. Rodrik, is the secret of Korean and Taiwanese success. Education and training are necessary but insufficient conditions for sustained growth; what matters is solving coordination failures, and in this context President Park's arrest of businessmen, far from being an aberration, was part of a wider process.

The Guardian Weekly

Halaib nomads caught in Egypt-Sudan row

By Khaled Dawoud
Reuters

HALAIB TRIANGLE, near the Egypt-Sudan border — The nomads who live in the desolate Halaib triangle find themselves in the midst of a territorial tug of war between Egypt and Sudan.

For most of the wanderers it does not matter which country they are a part of, but, after centuries of neglect, who can offer them more services.

Egyptian officials estimate that between 18,000-20,000 people live in Halaib. With the exception of the three small towns of Shalateen, Abu Ramad and Halaib, there is nothing but desert and mountains.

Just a few bedouin families and their tents, camels and goats can be seen every few miles.

"We (Egypt) made them live like human beings," said an Egyptian army officer who accompanied reporters on a recent official trip

to the region.

"They could only take showers once every six months before. We provided them with water and electricity.

"They (bedouins) don't have a problem with borders. They don't know what's going on around them and have no idea of what has taken place (between Egypt and Sudan)," the officer added.

He was referring to members of the Basharya and Ababda tribes who have lived in the 18,000 square km desert triangle for centuries, moving between Egypt and Sudan.

Most Egyptians had never heard of Halaib until Egyptian-Sudanese relations began to deteriorate in the last few years. Since then, the border triangle issue has surfaced whenever Cairo and Khartoum exchange angry words.

The latest war of words turned into a clash in Halaib in June after the Cairo government accused

Khartoum of involvement in an assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. Sudan denied the charge but relations sunk to their lowest ebb in years.

The services provided by Egypt were emphasised by residents provided for the visiting 100 local and international reporters to inspect the region: nearly 1,200 km south of Cairo.

In three years, Egypt has built up highways, water desalination stations, provided electricity and other basic services such as schools and hospitals.

"We are happy with the construction. Egypt brought us development," said Nour Eid Mohammad, a 15-year-old girl.

"The Egyptians have fed us, brought us water and provided us with education. But we also want the situation in Sudan to become good because they are Muslims like us," said Gam'a

Ahmad, a shepherd from the Basharya tribe.

The people in Halaib dress like Sudanese and many of them still prefer tents to the cement houses built for them by the Egyptian government. They have their own dialect known as Rotana, which is very different from Arabic.

One army officer said that not all Basharya and Ababda tribe members had pledged loyalty to the Egyptian government. Some had joined the Sudanese police force which ran the area for decades, he said.

Egypt has now confined members of the Sudanese civil administration, including police, to a small part of Halaib near the border with Sudan.

Fadel Khaled, the headmaster of the only Egyptian-run school in Abu Ramad, said a Sudanese school in the town was closed when all students moved to his school.

NATO steps closer to brink of war in Bosnia

By Jeremy Lovell
Reuters

BRUSSELS — NATO, its options fast running out, has put itself on a war footing in Bosnia in the desperate hope that it will never have to take the plunge.

With its emergency pull-out plans safely tucked away in its back-pocket, the alliance on Tuesday spread its air umbrella over the Gorazde "safe area" to Bihac, Tuzla and Sarajevo.

"The council has today approved the necessary planning to deter attacks by any party, and I repeat any party, on the 'safe areas' of Bihac, Sarajevo or Tuzla," NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said after a meeting of alliance ambassadors.

"Any attacks on them will be met with the firm and rapid response of NATO airpower," he warned.

It is a last, despairing gambit by NATO and the United Nations whose past ultimatums have been shown repeatedly to hold more heat than substance.

Two other government-held "safe areas," Srebrenica and Zepa, have already fallen to the Bosnian Serbs.

"We had to agree these steps, without them the U.N. mission's position would have been untenable," an alliance source said.

NATO governments know that if challenged this time they will have to carry out their threats in full or be forced to withdraw, leaving many of their own troops dead, condemning thousands more civilians to death by starvation or brutality and risking a wider war in the Balkans.

Mr. Claes and other leaders of the 16-nation alliance have repeatedly stressed that they neither want to go to war nor to put in the estimated 60,000 extra troops needed to help evacuate the U.N. Protection Force from Bosnia and Croatia.

"We urge all parties in Croatia and in Bosnia to exercise restraint and to desist from further military action," Mr. Claes said.

"We call on them to enter into serious negotiations to achieve a lasting peace throughout the former Yugoslavia."

But in order to achieve this aim NATO and the U.N. have been forced to gear up for a more aggressive peacekeeping role than in the past but stopping just short of the kind of "peace enforcement" that overall U.N. commander General Bernard Janvier says he has neither the means nor the mandate to carry out.

Exactly how this new role will be put into practice is in the hands of Mr. Janvier and NATO commander Admiral Leighton Smith.

It will be up to them to decide what constitutes a threat to a "safe area," how to respond and, more importantly, how widely to spread their response — nearby tank or troop concentrations, supply bases, command and control centres, missile sites, radar stations, transport links or even more distant airfields.

The further afield they decide they can go, the

more they risk being seen as taking sides in the conflict and the more they risk antagonising Russia, which is adamant that the use of force, particularly against its traditional Serbian friends, is wrong.

"The air option has to be very carefully calibrated according to each situation that arises," one alliance source said. "But there is clearly now a greater willingness by the U.N. to use NATO air power."

One of the key deterrents to the use of NATO air strikes in the past has been the ease with which heavily armed Bosnian Serbs have been able to take isolated pockets of lightly armed U.N. troops hostage and use them as human shields.

Partly to reduce the risk of this happening in future, Mr. Janvier has begun regrouping his forces.

This may make them less effective in providing humanitarian aid — the reason the U.N. is there in the first place — but, perhaps by chance, it makes it easier to pull them out if necessary.

New army offensive in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

ities said they would retaliate against civilian targets if the Croatian assault did not halt, the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA said.

Diplomats believe Croatia may want to push back Serb guns that can shell the Dubrovnik area in the wake of their successful recapture of the rebel Krajina last weekend.

In a move billed as "preventing the genocide of the Serbian people," the lower house of Russia's parliament on Saturday voted to lift economic sanctions against Serbia and impose them on Croatia.

The Duma also approved a statement accusing the West of siding with the Croats in their war with the Serbs, who are traditional Russian allies and fellow Slavs and Orthodox Christians.

The statement accuses NATO warplanes of backing Croat attacks on Serb-held areas of the Krajina region in eastern Croatia. It also accuses the United States of training the Croat armed forces.

The actions come on the eve of a meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Anthony Lake, President Bill Clinton's national security advisor.

Mr. Lake is heading a high-level American delegation in Europe this week to push for a Balkan summit. Mr. Kozyrev and Mr. Lake were to meet Sunday in the southern Russian city of Sochi.

The delegation is trying to organise a summit bringing together the leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia with representatives of Russia, the United States, Germany, Britain and France.

The ITAR-TASS news

agency on Saturday said Mr. Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl spoke late Friday by telephone about the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, Germany supports the U.S. initiative.

After meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic earlier this week, Mr. Yeltsin urged world leaders to lift sanctions on the Serbs and said Russia might lift them unilaterally.

The French newspaper Le Monde reported on Saturday, new U.S. peace proposals for Bosnia include a threat to use an international ground force of troops from Muslim countries against Bosnian Serbs if they reject the plan.

The influential newspaper said Washington also proposed to lift the U.N. arms embargo on the Sarajevo government and use Western air power against the Bosnian Serbs if they rejected a proposed territorial settlement to the three-year-old war.

Le Monde said the plan included trading the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde and widening the Brcko corridor linking Serb-held territories in northern Bosnia to Serbia.

In return Bosnian Serbs would be asked to let Muslims extend their territory eastwards in the central Sarajevo area.

Le Monde said the U.S. plan, mixing concessions and threats to Bosnian Serbs, called for lifting international economic sanctions against Serbia if Belgrade forced Bosnian Serbs to accept the proposals.

If the plan failed on account of the Bosnian Muslims, it said, Washington suggested pulling out the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and lifting the arms embargo on both warring sides.

U.S.-Japan post-war alliance under scrutiny

By Linda Sieg
Reuters

TOKYO — The end of the cold war, the dawn of an Asian-Pacific era and trade disputes are calling into question and bedrock of the U.S.-Japan alliance which sprang from the ashes of World War II.

"The alliance may have been an artifact of the war and the past 50 years," says James Abeggen, an author and consultant who has spent much of the period since 1945 in Japan.

"We might eventually look back and say it was, in a way, an historical aberration."

Michael Armacost, the former U.S. ambassador to Japan, also sees an era ending.

"A new generation of political leaders is emerging who are less influenced by the lessons of the 1930s and 1940s and who are perhaps less committed to post war international institutions and post war alignments," he says.

Some of Japan's new generations of politicians and businessmen believe Asia, not the United States, should take pride of place in determining Japanese policies.

Behind such views, in part, is a belief that the economic future rests with developing Asian countries — an opinion shared even by many who reject the notion that the Japan-U.S.

alliance is outmoded and unnecessary.

"In the past it was the American economy that helped Japan whenever we were depressed," said Akitane Kiuchi, a former diplomat and sometime advisor to the Japanese government.

"Now it's not economically strong enough to pull us out, but Asia is. Economically, we are turning to Asia," he added.

U.S. officials are well aware of the economic forces causing Japan's firms to move output to other Asian countries to cope with the rise of the yen, and the flow of Japanese capital to help such countries modernise their infrastructures.

"You are going to see a very rapid increase in Japanese (overseas) investment," said U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce Jeffrey Garten. "We are seeing a real shift in Japanese strategy towards making Asia a platform for their commercial policy around the world."

Some Japanese politicians, though still a minority, advocate a diplomatic-economic turn towards Asia which their critics say bears a disturbing resemblance to Japan's war-time "greater East Asia co-prosperity sphere."

"Asian-ism in Japan is springing up among econo-

mic bureaucrats tired of economic friction with the U.S. and among businessmen, but we must not forget the unfortunate history in which pre-war Asian-ism was linked to Japanese nationalism," said an article in a Japanese foreign policy journal.

Some U.S. firms, convinced that Japan's markets are too closed and too sluggish to be worth the bother, have turned increasing attention to other parts of Asia.

Chilly ties on the U.S.-Japan trade front, meanwhile, have boosted concerns that economic feuds are eroding trust and damaging the broader bilateral alliance.

"My guess is that we will see a continuous series of trade problems between our two countries into the next century," Mr. Garten said last month.

"The big question is whether we can improve on the way we deal with one another to resolve these differences."

Despite the doubts and irritants, many experts on both sides believe keeping the alliance on firm footing is vital, especially given regional worries about China and North Korea.

"Some short-sighted people may be fed up with the U.S.-Japan relationship. If so, that would be extremely regrettable," Mr. Kiuchi said. "Maybe the nature of the relationship is changing, but the importance is still there."

Historian: After Hiroshima, U.S. faced nuclear turning point

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hiroshima's horrors convinced U.S. and Soviet leaders that nuclear bombs could never be used again, but pressure from military men led them to build thousands anyway, says a leading American historian of the atomic age.

This "incredible dissonance" produced a monumentally wasteful nuclear arms race, Richard Rhodes says.

"It has recently been estimated it cost the United States \$4 trillion (in current dollars). That number represents the U.S. national debt as of last year."

Mr. Rhodes, who won a 1988 Pulitzer prize for his book "The Making of the Atomic Bomb," has just published "Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb," another densely detailed, authoritative chronicle of a pivotal passage in the nuclear story.

"Dark Sun" (Simon and Schuster) offers newly unearthed information on the successful Soviet espionage effort to steal U.S. atom bomb secrets, and on the U.S.-Soviet race to build the H-bomb.

Mr. Rhodes was interviewed before he flew to Japan, at the invitation of Hiroshima's mayor, to join in commemorative events for Sunday's 50th anniversary of the destruction of that city by a U.S. atom bomb.

In the aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviets rushed to duplicate the basic atomic bomb, it would have been impossible to negotiate controls on

nuclear arms, Mr. Rhodes said.

But "where we might have had a chance to have a reasonable discussion (with the Soviets) was in the hydrogen bomb decision," he said, because the two powers then were in rough nuclear parity.

That was in 1949, after the Soviets exploded their first Nagasaki-style fission bomb, and U.S. atom bomb scientists debated pursuing Edward Teller's theory of a fusion, or hydrogen, bomb hundreds of times more powerful.

In October 1949, in a dramatic Washington gathering recounted in depth in "Dark Sun," the general advisory committee of scientists unanimously opposed the "super bomb" idea.

In a joint statement, a six-man majority denounced it as a potential "weapon of genocide." Renowned physicists Enrico Fermi and I.I. Rabi called it "an evil thing considered in any light," and proposed that the United States invite all nations to join in renouncing "super bombs."

Even if the Soviets built a fusion weapon, the scientists said, the 169 fission bombs the United States had were more than enough of a deterrent.

Mr. Rhodes shows that both U.S. president Harry Truman and Soviet leaders had been appalled by the destructiveness of the Hiroshima bomb.

The day after Nagasaki, Truman ruled out further atomic bombings, saying "the thought of wiping out another 100,000 people was

too horrible," a cabinet member recorded. Truman later described nuclear war as "not a possible policy for rational men."

"The political leadership of both countries came to understand that these things were just too destructive to use, because you risk your own country if you did," Mr. Rhodes said.

But the joint chiefs of staff in 1949 wanted the "super." They dismissed the scientists' unanimous advice as "foolhardy altruism."

What really motivated the generals, Mr. Rhodes said, was that their conventional forces had shrunk after World War II, and they saw nuclear weapons as their primary defence.

In the end, Truman went along with the military, telling an aide the H-bomb at least might be a bargaining chip to use with the Soviets.

"What's interesting," Mr. Rhodes said, "is this incredible dissonance between what the political leaders understood and what they allowed their militaries to do."

The resulting arms race, Mr. Rhodes concludes in "Dark Sun," contributed to a U.S. decline "evident in a decaying infrastructure and social and educational neglect."

The \$4 trillion estimate for U.S. nuclear arms spending comes from a new study by a group of Washington specialists. It includes the cost of missiles and other delivery systems, and the projected bill for environmental cleanup from weapons production.

China keeps up export drive in Arab Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — China is intensifying its drive to grab a bigger share of the lucrative Arab Gulf market that had long been dominated by Japan and Western industrial powers, officials said Saturday.

China, which has one of the fastest-growing economies, is sending more than 100 companies to the biggest consumer exhibition in the Gulf this year after a successful participation in the 1994 fair.

The Nov. 7-11 trade fair in Dubai, the main transshipment centre in the Middle East, will attract over 600 firms from 35 countries seeking to market their products or establish a durable presence in the oil-rich region.

"The exhibition is an opportunity for the participants to sell their products, discuss new business deals and find partners in the area," said Faysal Ahmad, manager of Al Fajr company, which is organising the fair.

"China is the biggest participant, sending a contingent of more than 100 exhibitors. This shows its determination to wrest a bigger market share," he pointed out.

China set its sights on the Gulf market in the mid 1980s, when it remarked on sweeping reforms to revive its communist economy.

It opened its first Middle East commercial centre in Dubai in 1986 and began sending business delegations and participating in local exhibitions in the region, where its products were previously little known.

The campaign has produced results, with China's trade with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) jumping to more than \$1 billion in 1994 from less than \$100 million a year in the mid 1980s.

Official Dubai figures showed China had overtaken Western countries that had been the main exporters to the emirate. China's exports to Dubai stood at around \$800 million in 1994.

It was second only to Japan, which is still the dominant force in the GCC market despite the surge in the yen against the U.S. dollar.

"We consider China is a newcomer to the Gulf market as other countries have been here for decades. But as you see, trade is steadily growing and we expect further increase, given the competitive price and quality of our products," a Chinese embassy official here told AFP.

Organisers of the Dubai "Autumn Fair," which is held every year, said the event helped participants in promoting exports to the GCC, Iran and other countries as Dubai is one of the biggest reexport centres in Asia.

Dubai's trade of around \$18 billion in 1994 accounted for nearly one fifth of the total Gulf non-oil trade. Its reexports went mainly to Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and as far as India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

"The fair promises to live up to its image as a venue to forge and renew business alliances — and more importantly — a springboard to target a \$200 billion market for which Dubai is the traditional entrepot, while providing a window on the newest products and services," Mr. Ahmad said.

He said last year's exhibition included business deals worth around \$250 million, of which more than \$50 million were Chinese.

The fair will exhibit a wide range of consumer items, including electronics, household appliances, construction materials, farm products, plastic and electrical carpets, garments and sanitary wares.

The other key Asian participants are Indonesia with 60 companies, Thailand with 55 companies, Pakistan with 30 firms and Bangladesh with 10 firms.

Vice president resigns as Iran rejects free market

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran announced the resignation of its leading economic liberal, Vice President Masoud Rahnpoor, Saturday, marking the end of the country's battered experiment with the free market.

The departure of Mr. Rahnpoor, one of several vice presidents and director of the planning and budget agency, was a victory for Iranian conservatives and radicals who for weeks had called for his departure.

Mr. Rahnpoor, one of the architects of the Islamic regime's free market experiment, had become a target of criticism.

President Ali Khamenei said Saturday that he had accepted the resignation of Mr. Rahnpoor.

He appointed Hamid Mirzadeh, president of executive affairs and in charge of reconstruction in regions of Iran devastated by the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, as his successor.

Over the last few months the Tehran government has abandoned the policies of Mr. Rahnpoor and other liberals, returning to a state-led economy in an attempt to combat a plunging currency and galloping inflation.

Leaders have also sought to tame the \$35 billion medium- and short-term debt which country has accrued since first falling into a budget crisis two years ago.

Last May, under pressure from conservatives and business people, the government decided to end the free trade in currencies by fixing exchange rates and controlling the money flow.

In April, Tehran set fixed prices for some locally produced goods and stepped up its fight against contraband.

The government set up an economic police force to inspect shops and crack down on "illegal stock" and decided that a "force of 320 teams of 'basijis', volunteer militias, should also supervise markets.

Ration coupons for basic goods and other products have also returned. For the last few days, hundreds of thousands of Tehranis have lined up in front of banks to receive the coupons for food items such as oil and rice.

Brazilian chosen to head UNCTAD

GENEVA (R) — Brazil's Rubens Ricuperio, who lost out in last year's race to lead the World Trade Organisation (WTO) because of a televised gaffe, is to head the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), U.N. sources said Friday.

They said the former economy minister had been chosen by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to fill the long-standing vacancy and give more clout to the organisation.

UNCTAD, based in Geneva, is the primary forum for discussion between developed and developing nations on such issues as commodities, trade, debt and economic development.

But its importance within the United Nations system has clearly declined in recent years and some would-be reformers of the United Nations have proposed abolishing it altogether and handing its responsibilities to the WTO.

Mr. Ricuperio was the clear front-runner last year to head the WTO, established by the Uruguay Round trade accord to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

But Brazil dropped him as its candidate in September soon after he resigned his ministerial post. Mr. Ricuperio quit after telling a television reporter that he was using an anti-inflation plan to boost the presidential front-runner Fernando Henrique Cardoso, now Brazil's president.

"I have no scruples. The good things we publicise, the bad we hide," he was reported to have said.

Mr. Ricuperio made the remarks while waiting to be interviewed over a satellite link without realising that the link had already been switched on.

Ms. Levine said the members were "very excited by the possibilities here — they were talking to people who were talking the same language, the language of business."

To sum up, she continued, "there are very savvy entrepreneurial businessmen in the West Bank, Gaza and Jordan; and what that means is there is a great possibility of U.S. companies doing deals with their counterparts."

In just over a week, the mission, which began on July 23 in Tel Aviv, logged some 165 meetings in Gaza and Jerusalem with Palestinian officials and business leaders.

U.S. investment mission to Palestinian areas described as very successful

WASHINGTON (USIA) — American business executives and U.S. officials who were members of a recent investment mission to the Middle East returned enthusiastic this week about investment opportunities in the West Bank and Gaza, focus of their week-long tour.

Speaking in separate interviews, all lauded what one senior executive described as "the entrepreneurial success of the Palestinian executive community."

After describing the trip as "very successful," Susan Levine, senior vice president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), said "what everyone walked away with was the realisation that we are dealing in a world full of deal-makers, unlike some of the former centrally planned economies that have come to market-based economies."

She added, "here you have people who have been operating under difficult conditions. They are entrepreneurs, they understand the art of a deal, of how to do business and how to make money. So it's a much different kind of conversation than if you were going to a country that did not have capitalism and now you have to talk about how we make profit."

Ms. Levine said the members were "very excited by the possibilities here — they were talking to people who were talking the same language, the language of business."

To sum up, she continued, "there are very savvy entrepreneurial businessmen in the West Bank, Gaza and Jordan; and what that means is there is a great possibility of U.S. companies doing deals with their counterparts."

In just over a week, the mission, which began on July 23 in Tel Aviv, logged some 165 meetings in Gaza and Jerusalem with Palestinian officials and business leaders.

— "a 95 per cent turnout rate which showed the determination of the Palestinians," Ms. Levine said. The group stopped for one day in Amman for more meetings before returning home.

The tour was arranged and led by OPIC, an independent U.S. government agency that provides project financing and political risk insurance to American businesses investing in more than 145 emerging economies and developing nations.

OPIC, a self-sustaining agency, is committed to providing "at least \$125 million" of financing or risk insurance in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to Ms. Levine, and "this is not the maximum but the minimum."

In fact, the New York-based firm of Siguler, Guff & Co. manages an OPIC-supported \$250 million fund that will make direct equity investments in private business ventures in the West Bank, Gaza, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

So far OPIC has provided support to Buechit International Ltd., of Ohio, for a venture southwest of Gaza City that employs more than 60 workers making precast concrete construction systems. "We gave them three million dollars of insurance," Ms. Levine reported, and OPIC is now in the midst of talks for additional financing.

American companies represented on the mission came from a variety of sectors — energy, construction, light manufacturing, water treatment, financial services and tourism.

They included: AES Electric Ltd., Astrum International, Bechtel, Chicago Power, Culligan Water Technologies, Darco International, Dearborn Financial, Inc., DuPont Advanced Material Systems, FTR International, Inc., Gas Energy, Inc., Guy F. Atkinson Company, International Business and Medical Development Corp., Intercontinental Hotels, Technology Management Associates, Inc., and United Technologies Turbo Power and Marine Systems.

Among those the group met were Chairman Yasser Arafat and several of his ministers in the Palestine Authority.

This was not a deal-signing trip, Ms. Levine said; the purpose was to introduce U.S. companies to Palestinian partners. The next step is for them to put together a project, which may or may not need OPIC financing.

Noel Gould, special counsel for international development at Culligan Water Technologies, reported that the trip was "very informative and very productive."

He added, "it left a lasting impression about the strength of the Palestinian business community."

He added, "the progress made in both Gaza and the West Bank is very positive and affirming of both the peace process and skills and talents of the Palestinian business community."

He said his company is now looking at a number of projects ranging from bottled water to desalination to water treatment systems for the new commercial, manufacturing and power developments being planned by Palestinian officials.

He said a Culligan team will be returning to the West Bank in September for further talks. "We now need to focus on specific projects and time schedules...so that we start creating business plans."

Ali Hussein, president of the International Business and Medical Development Corporation (IBMD), painted a gloomy picture of the medical conditions in the Palestinian areas and urged additional U.S. financial aid. "Everything is less than zero, they need everything."

As a result of a meeting with the Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Riyad Zaidoun, he is now looking into providing the first open heart facility at Gaza's main hospital. An open heart operation in nearby Israel, he pointed out, would cost a Palestinian patient about \$20,000.

He also was interested in "upgrading our (health) management information system so that it will be computerised and centralised."

IBMD is now examining feasibility studies done by Palestinian private investors for opening two hospitals in the West Bank, and expanding the budding pharmaceutical industry locally and internationally.

Mr. Hussein, who is of Turkish origin, said this was his first trip to the Palestinian areas but he is involved in similar work in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia, where he is working on a regional neurological centre.

He is returning to the West Bank in a month in the hope of signing some agreements of intent. "We are determined to spend our time, energy and resources," Mr. Hussein said and went on to praise OPIC for facilitating these high-level contacts in the region.

Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS

- Drunkards
- "Moonstruck" actress
- Stripped of residents
- Summarized
- Christmas mo
- Gave temporarily
- Carved
- 18 Year
- 20 — off (recite fluently)
- Breathing sound
- Sheds
- Canasta card
- Blade
- Is excessively theatrical
- Except
- Possessive pronoun
- Pontificate
- Dedicate
- Island neckwear
- Sounds from the meadow
- He purchased Alaska
- Hostels
- Sports group
- Networks of nerves
- Hurry-up letters
- Boutique
- Fashion designer
- Part of the eye
- Winglike
- Not at home
- Slowdowns
- Certain students
- Be overly fond
- Performance by one
- DOWN
- Champagne word
- Hyalite or cat's-eye
- Chronic drunkard
- Small upright piano
- Actor Gulgler
- Dutch painter, Frans
- And others: abbr.
- Withdraw
- Removes a certain purifier
- Says
- Guillotine events
- Remunerated
- Having a harmful effect
- Woman of title
- Poor grades
- Major conclusion
- Be in front
- Line of junction
- Monsieur Montand
- Bluebonnet
- Always
- Garden implements
- Was obligated
- Prevaricator
- Desert
- Move suddenly and swiftly
- Seasoned
- Teeth
- Open courtyard
- Verne's captain
- Touched ground
- Iranian coin
- Comp. pt.
- Yoko

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

Peanuts

SOMETIMES I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT, AND I ASK, "WHY AM I HERE?"

THEN A VOICE COMES TO ME THAT SAYS, "WE CAN'T TAKE YOUR QUESTION NOW...WE'RE ALL OUT ROLLERBLADING."

Andy Capp

WELL, ER— SAUSAGES!

AND GET 'EM ON, I'M FAMISHED!

Mutt'n'Jeff

SAY, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT'S AGAINST THE LAW? DIDN'T YOU SEE THAT SIGN, "DON'T WALK?"

WHO WALKED?

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have obligations to attend to, which you have procrastinated about for some time, but handle them today quickly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't try to change another person's ideas since it would only be a waste of time. Keep promises you have made.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may feel worn out and should take the treatments which will help to restore your energies. Don't try to do everything at once.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Situations and annoyances may arise to make you impatient since you had your heart set on having a good time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Although the situation at home may not be so good, try to remain poised and cheerful there. Drive with care while on the highway.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may feel that your life is not going as well as you would like it to, so improve it while being thankful for blessings you have.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into any tasks which need to be completed. Forget any financial and outside affairs. Use tact and all is well.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) That plan you have may take too long to make successful, so study it more carefully before putting it in operation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to listen to any disagreements your mate may have, but keep quiet and don't respond as yet.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A friend could ask you for a favour today but quietly refuse since this person needs to learn to be more self-reliant.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't involve yourself in any argument between a higher-up and an outsider or you could become the whipping boy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new acquaintance and an ally may disagree over some affair which also involves you, but keep out of it and it will soon blow over.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Business

daily

bea

A review of economic from the Arab

White cement companies expand production line by

THE ARAB

for Manufacturing ment plans to expand production line by 25 per cent of its present capacity which reached 1.5 million in 1994. The expansion is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1996. The company manager said the expansion was a precautionary move to secure the market in the face of a summer months when some traders try to speculate in the market. The higher prices of white cement in the market had led to a shortage of cement in the market and some traders try to speculate in the market. The higher prices of white cement in the market had led to a shortage of cement in the market and some traders try to speculate in the market.

ACCORDING TO

announcement from Companies' Committee Petra Enterprises and Investment Company merged creating a new company to be known as Land Development (ULDC) with a JD 5 million capital. The shareholders equity of Petra Enterprises amounted to JD 548,700, the date of merger, when the net equity of Jordan Real Estate amounted to 451 million. ULDC's capital to be further increased through another round in the coming two years. Noting that the Union Company for Financial Investments, established in 1994 with a JD 22 million capital, owned 20.5 per cent of ULDC and that the ULDC owned more than 50 per cent of the capital. Salifu pointed out that ULDC has become the arm of real estate investment for the union group. ULDC is working on transforming a huge 300,000 sqm complex in Amman into a hotel owned by the corporation at a cost of JD 2 million.

ULDC is now also working on setting up a complex of furnished apartments in Amman and an entertainment city off the airport highway. The Amman project will be built on 12 dunams and at a cost of about JD 140 million while the entertainment project will be set up on 140 dunams opposite Zaytoonah University, Rafi + Al Aswag.

A U.S. commercial

legation comprising senior officials of various companies will visit the Kingdom from Sept. 16 to Sept. 22, 1995. The delegation will look for investment and trade opportunities in Jordan and will be taking a series of meetings with officials of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan in coordination with the Jordanian Trade Center in Washington (Al Aswag).



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Stich, Chang come back from brink of defeat

MASON (R) — Two Michaels; Stich and Chang, came back from the brink of defeat to capture quarterfinal wins Friday at the \$1.8 million ATP championship. Stich over Pete Sampras and Chang over Jim Courier.

Under clear skies and a full moon, the fourth-seeded and two-time defending champion Chang scrambled back from two match points down in the second-set tiebreaker to take a 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5 victory over the 11th-seeded Courier.

Earlier, in boiling heat, the eighth-seeded Stich of Germany saved a match point with an ace down the middle at 30-40 in the 10th game of the second set and ended up a 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 winner over an exhausted Sampras, the second seed.

The ace was one of Stich's 27 in the match of Sampras's six.

After losing that match point the second-ranked Sampras wilted and strained his way through a third set.

"I just felt tired," Sampras said after the 2 hour, 2 minute match. "I was pretty hot and I was struggling with it a little more than he was."

The hot, humid weather didn't take a toll on top-seeded American Andre Agassi, who captured a 6-3, 6-4 quarterfinal victory over 50th-ranked Renszo Furlan of Italy.

The Saturday semifinals feature Agassi against 13th-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and Stich against Chang.

Sixth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, looking increasingly disinterested in the outcome of his match, folded to the 13th-ranked Enqvist 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

The seventh-ranked Ivanisevic was fined \$750 for an audible obscenity yelled during the match and another \$1,000 for refusing to appear at a post-match press conference.

It was obvious that the tenacious Stich, nipping at Sampras's heels, was too



Michael Chang

much for the American to handle.

"It was very tense, a very tight match," Stich said. "I told myself not to give up at any stage of the match."

The first set was hotly contested with Sampras just coming through on his third set point in the tiebreaker.

Stich took an early lead in the second set, breaking Sampras's serve in the first game. But Sampras evened the score when Stich smacked a backhand wide at 0-40 in the eighth game.

Sampras never recovered from Stich's preventing him from taking advantage of his one match point.

"I was disappointed I had a match point and was one point away from winning it," Sampras said. "That will sit with me."

The fifth-ranked Chang and 15th-ranked Courier played a 3 hour, 4 minute match that changed momentum numerous times.

"There was a lot of cat-and-mouse out there," Chang said. "At the end, we were both kind of grinding it out, laying it on the line. With a match like this, you have to see someone on the short end of the stick."

Courier seemed in charge with a 6-3, 2-0 lead, but Chang fought back, pushing a second set tiebreaker that nearly ended the match.

"He (Chang) never gives up, never says die," Courier said. "He's a very deserving winner."

Serving for the match at 5-4, Chang let Courier break his serve in the third set.

Chang won the final two games, but the match ended on a controversial note. Courier believed the final point, in which Chang served his 20th ace of the night, was a bad call. He dropped his racket and cap at the baseline in protest, but eventually shook Chang's hand, though he ignored the umpire.

Countdown begins for Rumman Hill Climb

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — Registration for the country's most popular auto sport event — The Rumman Hill Climb — closes Sunday and over 40 top competitors have already registered for the event Aug. 18, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Strong competition awaits drivers and fans in the competition which was initiated by His Majesty King Hussein in 1956.

At least three Lebanese participants have registered including Jean Pierre Nasrallah. In addition over 40 Jordanian drivers are taking part headed by last year's winner and Jordan Drivers Open champion Bashar Bustami and 1993 drivers champion Amjad Farrah in an Opel Manta 400.

His Majesty King Hussein still holds the record for the 3 kilometre-long event which he set in his Mercedes 190 with a time of 2 minutes 42 seconds.



Amjad Farrah

The Pepsi Rumman Hill Climb site is 30 kilometres north of Amman just off

the Jarash highway, two kilometres north of Rumman Village.



Bashar Bustami

Almost most of the Kingdom's top competitors are expected to participate as

the event counts towards the 1995 Jordan Open Driver's Championship.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Muster in San Marino final

SAN MARINO (R) — Austrian top seed Thomas Muster enjoyed a straight sets win over Italy's Stefano Pescosolido on Saturday to earn a place in the final of the San Marino open. Muster, playing on his favourite clay court surface, brushed aside the unseeded Pescosolido 6-4 6-2 in a match lasting just over an hour. Pescosolido had taken his place in the last four after Spanish fourth seed Alberto Costa withdrew with a shoulder injury during the opening set of their quarter-final on Friday. Costa beat Muster in the final of the Austrian Open last week and might have provided the world number three with a sterner semifinal examination.

Cantona rejects poetry chance

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United star Eric Cantona is understood to have declined to take part in a poetry reading session at the Edinburgh Festival later this month, the club said in Friday. A press officer for the football club said: "He is not going to take part. I haven't spoken to the boy, but we got a fax through about this and sent it over to the training ground. It came back with 'no' written at the top." Gus Stewart of theatre group Damage which issued the invitation said: "We have heard nothing back from Manchester United yet. I would be disappointed to think that it has just been rejected out of hand." Cantona's way with words was brought to the world's attention at a press conference after his two-week jail sentence for attacking a Crystal Palace fan was reduced to community service on appeal in March. "When seagulls follow a trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea," he said poetically before walking out of the conference.

Milutinovic returns as Mexico's coach

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — Bora Milutinovic returned as coach of the Mexican football team here on Friday succeeding former dentist Miguel Mejia Baron who resigned after losing to the United States in the recent Copa America tournament. Serbian born Milutinovic earned the sobriquet of the "miracle man" after coaching Mexico to the 1986 World Cup quarter-finals, tiny Costa Rica to the second round in Italy in 1990 (including a 1-0 defeat of Scotland) and taking the United States to the same stage in last year's World Cup — only losing 1-0 to eventual World Champion Brazil. He played for Reims in France in 1965 and then went to play in Mexico. An unlikely playing career for one of the most successful and charismatic if eccentric coaches in international football.

Scots call up McCoist

GLASGOW (AFP) — Scotland manager Craig Brown called up Rangers striker Ally McCoist into the squad to face Greece here at Hampden Park in next Wednesday's European Championship. His recall ends a 28-month, 15-match international exile for the injury-plagued 33-year-old striker and follows injuries to Everton's Duncan Ferguson and Chelsea's John Spencer. Fergusson (groin) and Spencer (back) have been forced to pull out, leaving Brown with just three strikers — Duncan Shearer of Aberdeen, John Robertson of Hearts and Darren Jackson Hibs. Brown immediately contacted Rangers and McCoist will join the Scotland squad for their training session at Hampden on Sunday. McCoist, with 15 goals in 45 appearances for his country, has not featured for Scotland since breaking his leg in April 1993 in a World Cup tie against Portugal in Lisbon.

Italy win five-nation tournament

PATRAS, Greece (AP) — World water polo champion Italy won a five-nation tournament in Greece despite losing 4-6 to the host country in this western port on Friday. Australia and Croatia drew 9-9 in the last game of the four-day tournament played in preparation for the European Championship in Vienna later this month. Italy was the clear winner with five points. Croatia was second with four points, followed by Spain and Greece who also had four points but worse goal averages. Australia was fifth with three points, having won only one game (against Spain) and drawn one.

Panathinaikos player extends contract

ATHENS (AP) — Croatian centre Stojan Vranovic has renewed his contract with Panathinaikos of Athens for another year, the basketball club announced Friday. The brief announcement did not refer to financial terms, but reports said that the player would be getting \$1.8 million for the year.

Samaranch promises more cash

GOTHENBURG (R) — IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch offered at least \$25 million on Saturday to satisfy pressing demands from athletics for a bigger share of the Olympic financial cake.

Samaranch said the IOC was prepared to give between \$25 million to \$27 million from its share of television rights to the International Federations whose sports are represented at next year's Atlanta Games.

He made it clear the lion's share of the cash would go to athletics but the amount is unlikely to satisfy the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

The IAAF council which met in Gothenburg last week before the start of the World Athletics Championships decided that, as the major drawing card of the Olympics, it wanted \$100 million from television rights.

The IAAF said it received only \$1.5 million from television rights for the last games in Barcelona three years ago. Samaranch said the international federations already

received a share of TV money.

"We are ready to put on the table a second amount of money," he said. "This is compensation for the international federations who are not taking part (in the IOC's sponsorship programme)."

He said he suggested the money should be split among the 26 federations on the basis of the importance of individual sports but it would be up to the Association of International Summer Olympic Federations (ASOIF) to decide.

IAAF president Primo Nebiolo is also head of the ASOIF.

IOC marketing director Michael Payne said the IOC expected to receive more than \$900 million from television rights for the Atlanta Games.

Sixty per cent of this goes to games organisers with the remaining 40 per cent divided equally between the IOC, international federations and national Olympic committees.

Until 1988, the IAAF took

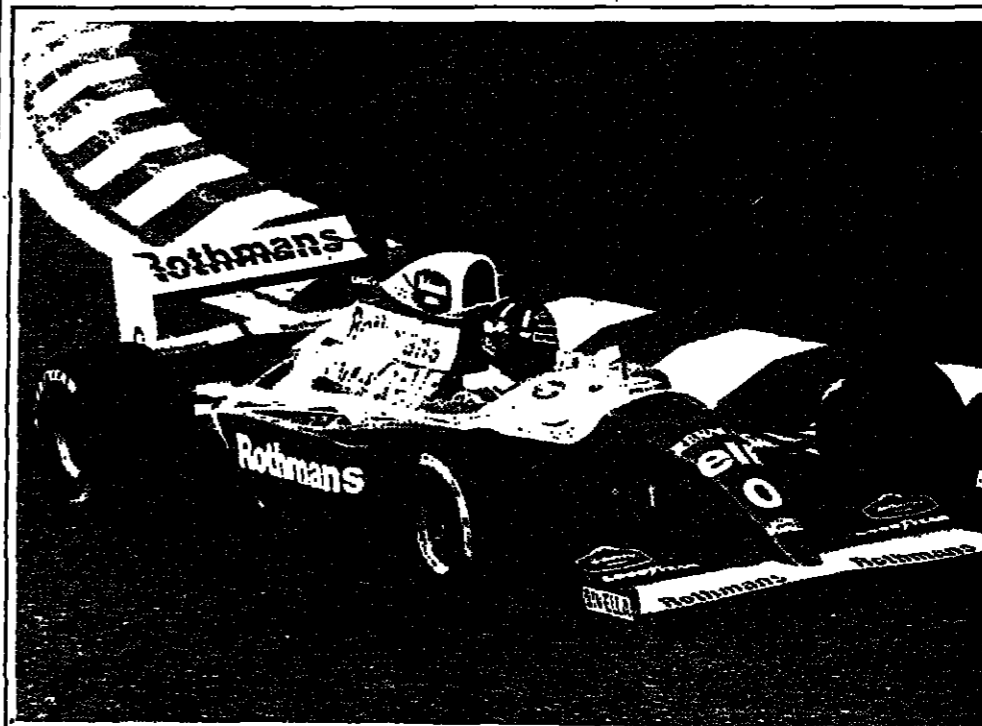
20 per cent of the cash handed to the international federations but the ASOIF decided in 1989 the money should be equally split between all 26 sports.

Samaranch said he was pleased with the \$1.27-billion deal agreed this week with American network NBC for the U.S. television rights for the 2000 Sydney Games and 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

"It was a very important offer. We said yes immediately," he said of the NBC's pre-emptive strike, cutting out the usual bidding war between rival networks.

He said the record bid by NBC did not necessarily mean the IOC had reached a revenue peak with television income likely to fall off at the 2004 Games and beyond.

"We always say we've reached the peak and that it will go down but it's not true," he said. "Sport and the Olympics are growing and growing and becoming more important. I'm not sure it will go down."



Britain's Damon Hill

Hill on pole for Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST (R) — Damon Hill grabbed pole position for the Hungarian Grand Prix with another dominant performance in final qualifying on Saturday.

Hill, in a Williams, clocked a fastest time of one minute 16.982 seconds to outstrip his team mate David Coulthard by four-tenths of a second as the Renault-powered British team took over the front row.

Hill will start Sunday's race with a clear advantage over defending world

champion Michael Schumacher, who leads Hill by 21 points in the title race.

Schumacher, in a Benetton, qualified third despite making a belated effort to break up the Williams pair at the front of the grid.

He will share the second row of the grid with Gerhard Berger's Ferrari. The two German-speaking drivers are expected to be team mates at Ferrari next season.

Hill has failed to win on the five previous occasions he has started from pole this season. His last Grand

Prix success was in San Marino in April.

Finland's Mika Hakkinen, in a McLaren, was fifth fastest and Frenchman Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari, sixth, 24 hours after his high-speed crash during opening qualifying.

Alesi spun off again on Saturday, as did Hill immediately after he had clocked the fastest lap.

Schumacher had to throw his Benetton car through a spectacular 360-degree spin at the final corner as he strove to improve his time.

Security tight for Seles' return to competitive tennis

TORONTO (AFP) — Security was tight at the York University Tennis Centre where Monica Seles was to arrive to prepare her return to competition next week.

More than two years after being stabbed by a deranged German fan of Steffi Graf, Seles was to play an exhibition doubles match Saturday to raise funds for the Special Olympics and prepare for next week's Canadian Open, also at York.

Officials refused to say what security measures will be imposed, except to promise they would be "discreet."

Seles made her public comeback last month with an exhibition match against former world number one Martina Navratilova, winning the event 6-3, 6-2.

The weekend charity event for Special Olympics, which organises international sporting events for disabled athletes will also feature Canada's world champion ice skater Kurt Browning, Canada's former top women's tennis player Carling Bassett and television soap opera star Eric Braeden.

For many Torontonians, the Saturday charity match will be the only opportunity still

open to see Seles play in the coming week. "We were already sold out for the final Saturday and Sunday (Aug 19-20) before Monica announced her plans to come here," said Tennis Canada spokesman Andrew Findlater.

"Then, when she announced, the other ticket sales for the rest of the week — which were already very good — picked up."

Saturday's charity event should also given the public their first glimpse of the security arrangements that are being promised. But Findlater refused to give any advance clues. "Security has always been a high priority with us," he said. "It will be even more so with Monica back."

It was during a changeover in her April 30, 1993 match against Magdalena Maleeva in the Hamburg Open in Germany when Guenther Parche, a 38-year-old unemployed lathe operator who wanted Graf to be the world number one, leaped out of the crowd from behind Seles and plunged a knife just below the left shoulder blade.

Job Vacancy Assistant to Director

A long established company operating in Jordan has a vacancy for a female assistant to the director (with additional responsibilities as an Office Manageress) with the following qualifications:

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- * Age group 28 to 35 years old.
- * Previous experience with international organisations is an asset.
- * Employment to start beginning of October 1995.

C.V. and all certificates to be sent to P.O.Box 851474 Swefieh-Amman 11185 - Jordan, application to be received by the 30th of August 1995.

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Adel Imam in
Bakht and Adilch
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Ahmad Zaki in
The Third Man
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By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With one of the country's most interesting basketball tournaments currently underway, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Saturday decided to add some spice to the event by holding a two-leg playoff round for the top four teams to decide the Under-22 champion.

The qualifiers are titleholders Al Jazireh, Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli and Al Yarmouk. Six other teams had initially registered for the knockout tournament: Al Jeel, Al Jalil, Al Fuheis, Al Watani, Gazet Hashem and Al Ashrafieh.

Among the usual participating teams, Homentmen and Al Hussein miss this year's competition in addition to newcomers Abu Nussair, Al Mafrag, Al Husun.

First round results came as follows:
Yarmouk vs. Jeel 94-55
Orthodoxi vs. Abbas 97-52
Jalil vs. Fuheis by default
Husun vs. Watani 73-59
Yarmouk vs. Jalil 85-45

Gazet Hashem and Al Ashrafieh were ruled out after they failed to show up for their scheduled match.

According to 1995 JBF rules, players of withdrawing teams will be released from their clubs and are free to join other clubs next season. The JBF might also decide to fine these teams in their upcoming meeting.

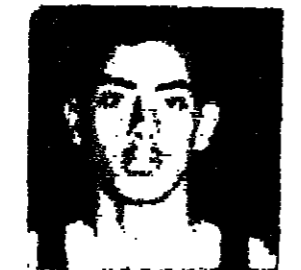
Last year, Al Jazireh won the title after a 98-94 win over Al Ahli in overtime. Al Ahli were leading



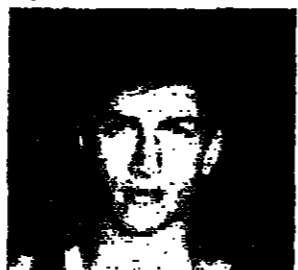
Yousef Abu Baker



Ziyad Nabulsi



Naser Alawneh



Mohammad Shamali

This week's matches (all at Al Ahli court)
* Jazireh-Yarmouk Sun. 13/8 5 p.m.
Alhi-Orthodoxi 13/8 6:30 p.m.
* Yarmouk-Alhi Tue. 15/8 5 p.m.
Jazireh-Orthodoxi Tue. 15/8 6:30 p.m.
* Yarmouk-Orthodoxi Thurs. 17/8 5 p.m.
Alhi-Jazireh Thurs. 17/8 6:30 p.m.

43-39 at halftime. Al Jazireh had won their first leg match 82-66.

The Aug. 13-24 final playoff round will enable JBF officials to single out the U-22 national team as there is an abundant number of qualified players in this age-group like Ramez Hammoudh, Mohammad Shamali, Zeid Alkhas, Ghaith Ennabi, Yousef Abu Baker, Naser Alawneh, Ma'an Odeh, Ziyad Nabulsi, Naser Bassam, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Ihab

Msih, Hani Taher and many others.

The JBF announced that the women's competition will be held in three rounds to provide more matches as only three teams are participating this year: Titleholders Al Orthodoxi, Al Jazireh and Al Ahli.

Homentmen are missing the competition for the third consecutive year, while Abu Nussair have also not registered after sub-standard results in the past two seasons.

Rubin upsets Sabatini at Acura Classic

MANHATTAN BEACH (R) — American Chanda Rubin upset Argentine Gabriela Sabatini 6-7 (0-7) 7-6 (7-3) 6-0 and Indonesian Yayuk Basuki claimed the biggest tour win of her career by toppling American Lindsay Davenport 6-4 1-6 6-4 at the Acura Classic on Friday.

Top seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain also struggled before overcoming Natasha Zvereva of Belarus 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 but second seed Conchita Martinez of Spain had little difficulty in disposing of Germany's Anke Huber 6-1, 7-5.

Rubin, seeded 10th, reached her second semifinal of the year with her well-earned victory over the third-seeded Sabatini. It was the Americans' first win in seven meetings with Sabatini.

Rubin attacked constantly and kept Sabatini under pressure with her uninhibited groundstrokes and deep serve, but although she built a 4-1 lead in the first set she committed three spectacular volleying errors at 4-2 that

allowed Sabatini to recover.

"Most times I've played her I've had chances, but I didn't capitalise on them," said Rubin, who double-faulted twice in the tiebreak. "The first set was the same so I was disappointed."

"In the second set I wanted to attack a little more. Towards the end of the second set and into the third I really started to serve better."

After the first game of the final set, Sabatini received treatment for a pain that developed in her right heel. Rubin was determined that the distraction would not affect her.

"I just wanted to go out and keep playing the same level and concentrate on the ball. It made me a little tougher," said Rubin.

Sabatini, who had served well and struck some spectacular forehand winners, failed to compete as strongly in the final set, but refused to lay the blame on her injury.

"She was coming in to the net so many times and just went for it, and she served

very well. She played smart and deserved to win," Sabatini said.

"I was surprised she played so well all the time, because usually she can play for some moments but not the whole match."

In Davenport's defeat, it was Basuki's serve that did the damage. The Indonesian struck three aces in her opening service game and 10 in all, as Davenport struggled to work out where the ball was going.

"She served really well," Davenport said. "I was holding my own serve ok, but it's so hard to break her. She mixes up the pace a lot, and I couldn't tell where she was going to go with her serve. She has a spin which is really unusual and it's hard to read."

Sanchez Vicario struggled to shake off a persistent Zvereva, eventually overcoming the sixth seed after the Belarussian staged a determined third-set comeback.

Frankie Fredericks, Namibia's 1993 champion, braved a wrenched left hamstring to take silver before Jeff Williams of the United States.

Fredericks kept it short. "Michael is really fantastic," he said.

Kiptanui — who restored Kenyan pride after their 10,000m flop here — should not be forgotten, nor Riedel.

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World Athletics Championships Sergey and Co. serve up a record feast

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — Sergey Bubka, Michael Johnson and Moses Kiptanui led from the front as the World Championships was transformed into a record-breaking extravaganza.

Athletics can never have seen a day like it.

Bubka soared to an unprecedented fifth pole vault title in a row. Johnson raced to an unequalled double over 200 and 400m. Kiptanui chased and hurdled into an elite club of hat-trick title winners.

German hard-man Lars Riedel joined the party immediately afterwards, matching the Kenyan with his third consecutive discus title.

And for those not already gorged on the drama and passion at the packed Ullevi stadium, there was a world record, courtesy of Kim Batten, in the 400m hurdles, a tearful row between the world's top female sprinters... and the disqualification of 800m sure-bet Maria Mutola.

Bubka took pride of place, but only following a photo-finish with the wing-bee'd Johnson.

The Ukrainian made sure of a niche in history — as if his 35 career world records hadn't done that already — with a no-nonsense 5.92m victory over Maksim Tarasov of Russia, the Olympic champion, and Frenchman Jean Galfione.

So matter-of-fact that the 30-year-old only needed three vaults to do it.

He answered the crowd's call for more but could not clear a new world best of 6.15.

Johnson's win, to go on top of his 200m gold after a punishing schedule that saw him race eight times in seven days, was the more spectacular.

You expect Bubka to get world records but the world had been waiting almost 16 years for Italian Pietro Mennea's 19.72sec. landmark at altitude in Mexico to fall.

The Texan, diamond stud, gold chain and all, running in his liftable backward-leaning style, missed out by a mere seven hundredths of a second with the fifth fastest run of all time.

"Story of the week — very close to the world record. Anyway, I'm exhausted," he said. "But I'm happy with my work here."

He was even more delighted with the army of Swedes rooting for him here.

He used to be called poker-faced but he won friends here with his quiet manner and wit.

"I was a little surprised. Even when I was walking out to my blocks at the start of the week they were yelling my name," he said.

"I hadn't even done anything yet. It was like running in my own back yard."

Frankie Fredericks, Namibia's 1993 champion, braved a wrenched left hamstring to take silver before Jeff Williams of the United States.

Fredericks kept it short. "Michael is really fantastic," he said.

Kiptanui — who restored Kenyan pride after their 10,000m flop here — should not be forgotten, nor Riedel.

The Rift Valley rocket — who says he is so unknown back home that even his neighbours do not know he is an athlete — steeple-chased away from barefoot compatriot Christopher Kosgei in 8 minutes 04.16, the third fastest time ever run and just two seconds off his own world record.

"It was very easy for me. I could have broken the world record but 400m before the end I saw that the others were way behind, so I decided to save it," he declared.

Sa'ad Shaddad Al Asmari of Saudi Arabia sneaked in third when Kenya's Olympic champion Matthew Birir, poised for the first clean sweep of the games, fell flat on his face in the final lap.

The Saudi so delighted his federation that they rewarded him with a Mercedes, just as if he had won.

Kiptanui's days are numbered, however. "I think that my last steeplechase will be at the Olympics," he added.

Riedel's discus gold, built on a 68.76m heave, saw him join the likes of Kiptanui, Americans Carl Lewis (100m) and Greg Foster (110m hurdles), and Swiss shot putter Werner Gunthor — but not quite Bubka — on three world golds in a row.

So where did all that leave the women?

Kim Batten of the United States wore the happy face, a gold medal and an unexpected record to boot.

Her race had been written off as a non-event following the absence of 1993 champion Sally Gunnell and the injury to 400m champion Marie-Jose Perec, who had been targeting a double.

Batten, who spent the start of the year night before dreaming of records, was having none of it, running 52.61 second to eclipse Gunnell's Stuttgart mark of 52.74, while her compatriot Tonja Buford also slipped under the old mark (52.62) for silver.

The sad faces were worn by Mutola and Gwen Torrence. Mutola of Mozambique, the 800m champion two years ago, could probably have won the title with her laces tied together.

But she stepped out of line too early, got disqualified and ended on the floor in tears.

It seemed a perfect echo of Torrence's trials here. She had also stepped out of line in the 200m on Thursday to lose her medal. On Friday came the crying, following Merlene Ottey's suggestion that she had cheated.

Who said what at the World Championships:
★ "I think I'll need a lot of wisdom now because there



Portuguese Fernanda Ribeiro peaks through the 10,000m event at the World Athletics Championships (AFP photo)

will be a lot of temptations and snares that success will bring, that might take me off the track of what I really want to do — which is to glorify God with my life, and to be a good husband to be a good father." — Jonathan Edwards, Britain's world triple champion and world record holder.

★ "I've had a good time at Gothenburg." — Michael Johnson, after taking an unprecedented 200/400m double winner.
★ "I think at some point in the next few years I'll take a year and just devote myself totally to the 100m." — Johnson on his future.

★ "She cheated. She ran about two metres shorter than everybody else and she ran in somebody else's lane." — Merlene Ottey on Gwen Torrence's disqualification which handed the Jamaican the gold medal.

★ "I'm very very disturbed that Merlene would make such a comment. Not as a competitor but as a mother. I've always tried to instil in my little boy that you don't have to cheat to get anything." — Torrence on

Ottey's accusation.

★ "Parents have to practise what they preach, that's what I've always believed. I'm afraid to call my little boy because I don't want to tell him that someone said his mother cheated to win." — A tearful Torrence on the implication of Ottey's comment.

★ "I work full-time, eight hours a day as a marketing manager for the Bahamas Government. I hope they are listening to this interview and that they'll give me a year off with pay so that I can prepare for 1996." — Pauline Davis of the Bahamas, 400m silver medalist.

★ "No more questions about Ben Johnson." — Donovan Bailey, Canada's new 100m world champion.

★ "I am studying to be an electronics engineer. I put wires in my legs." — Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan turned Dane, reveals the secret of his 800m gold.

★ "When I'm here, I'm representing my country — not a tribe. On the track, I'm not a Hutu, not a Tutsi, I am a Burundian." — Arhemon Hatungimana, Burundi's 800m silver medalist, on why

he would not reveal his tribal roots.

★ "I think it's his ability not to settle for second place. The good old Jamaican attitude, which of course I have as well, coming from there." — Bailey on the reason behind the success of Linford Christie, Britain's Jamaican-born Olympic champion.

★ "They don't understand athletics and they don't understand the pole vault. With me having done 6m at Sestriere, if someone wins a meet with a 5.80m they will ask 'what's the deal?', what's wrong?" — Okkert Brits, the South African pole vaulter, on the high expectations of South African fans.

★ "It's not like running. I'm not Michael Johnson or Carl Lewis, I'm just pole vaulting." — Sergey Bubka on the reasons for his longevity at the top after winning a fifth world title.

★ "I want her not to compete in the heptathlon. If she does, I'm going home and I won't coach her anymore." — Bobby Kersee's ultimatum to his wife Jackie Joyner-Kersey before the American athlete bowed out of her specialty discipline.

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What is your opening bid?
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A ♠AJ10942 ♠K542 ♠84
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ782 ♣5 ♢KJ6 ♠AQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K7 ♠KQ10852 ♠AQ8 ♠72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠83 ♠AK984 ♠7 ♠KQ1083
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
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Mediator sees PNA-Hamas accord soon

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, Abdullah Nimr Darwish, Saturday said he expected an agreement to be reached soon between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and the Islamist group Hamas.

In a press conference held at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, Sheikh Darwish, who acts as a mediator between Mr. Arafat and the Hamas leadership, said that the talks between the two parties had shown "positive signs" and he expected negotiations "on all levels" to bear fruits in the near future.

He said, however, that "there are certain parties that are not Arab nor Palestinian who do not want the Palestinian home to live in harmony. But the (Palestinian National) Authority and the opposition are not as belligerent as some might like to believe."

Sheikh Darwish said his movement had decided, in its last general conference, to participate in the general elections for the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), but left the choice to its followers whether to vote or not.

While advocating peace with Israel based on "temporary agreements," Sheikh Darwish warned of the rise of extremist movements if solutions were not equitable for both parties.

"Does Islamic thought, modern and old say no to the principle of peace?" asked Sheikh Darwish. "Why don't we go back to the fundamentals of our religion and look into the correct scripts... instead of passing judgements and labelling this person as a traitor and the other as an atheist."

Sheikh Darwish said that temporary agreements were definitely better than "eternal" agreements because he believed that every generation would have a chance to make its own decision and discuss agreements based on the changes on the regional and international arenas.

"But I am warning all

countries and superpowers not to impose any humiliating agreement on the Arab countries," he said. "Remember the humiliation of Germany (after World War I) and the rise of the Nazis afterwards."

But Sheikh Darwish, while insisting on the need to attain an equitable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, called on Islamist groups, intellectuals and scholars to have a better understanding of Islamic principles and teachings especially in relation to peace with Israel and with any future enemy.

"If we go back to the original script of the interpretations of (Muslim scholar) Ibn Hammam, a truce could be reached with apostates if need be," he said. "And if necessary, Ibn Hammam says that Muslims should even pay money to reach agreements with them."

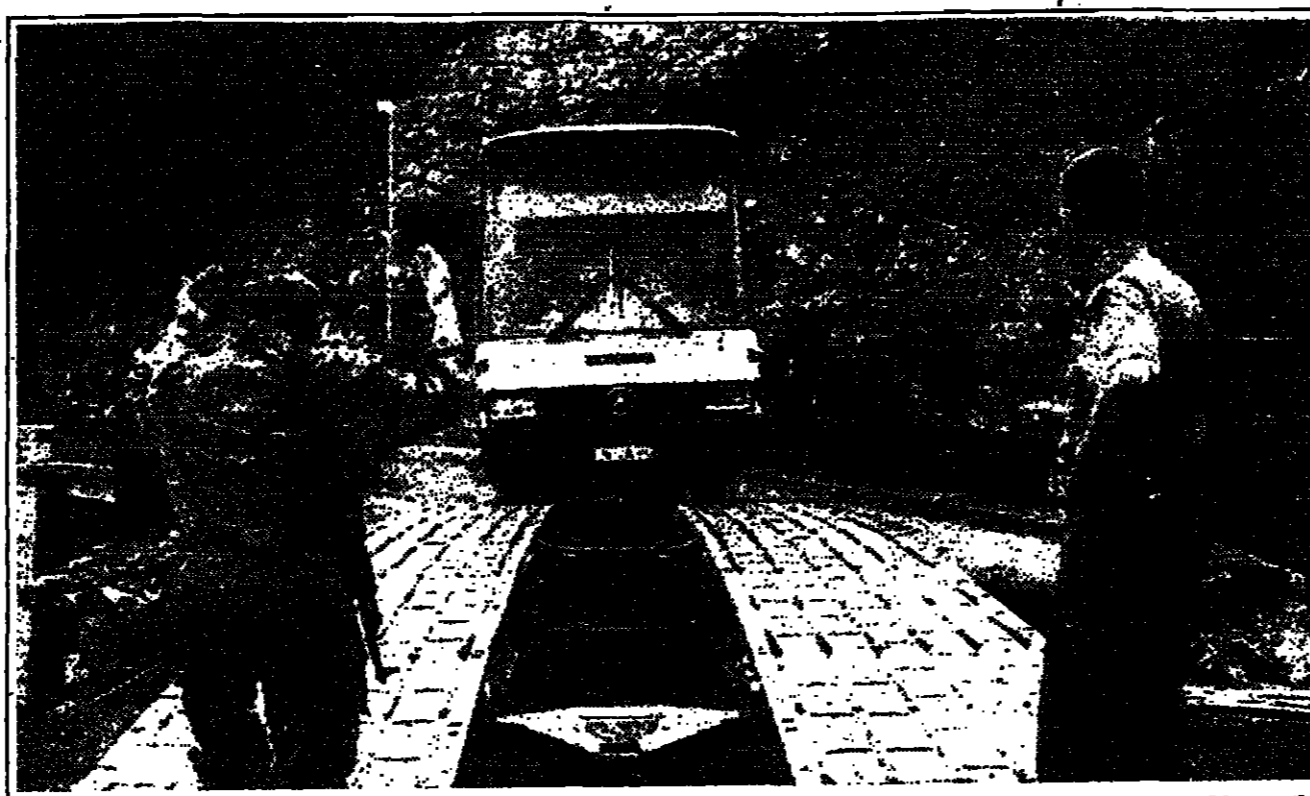
He said that Islam called on Muslims to work out for the best of their countries through different means. Jihad (holy war) can be fulfilled at two levels: Jihad as a holy war and Jihad as a moral strife.

"If we can achieve our objectives without waging wars then this is also considered Jihad," he said. "A reconciliation could be reached with the enemy if the leadership sees this to be in the interest of the country."

Lashing out at Islamist groups who "terrorise people and leaders through the use of religion," Sheikh Darwish said that a democratic system, where the government and the opposition should cooperate for the interest of the society, be established.

"I don't accept this terrorising style where every one who has a different opinion is labelled blasphemous. Only God knows that."

"Why should there be any discussion between two conflicting parties if both believe they have the truth?" he asked. "There should be a system whereby the government performs its duties properly and the opposition has the freedom of speech but without resorting to violence."



TAKING CONTROL: Croatian soldier directs a bus over a pontoon bridge near Stunj in the territory of the former Serb-held Krajina, some 90 kilometres from Zagreb. This

trunk road was blown up by rebel Serbs earlier this month forcing Croatian soldiers to erect the pontoon bridge here (AFP photo)

Iraqi media denounce defectors

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's official press broke its silence on Saturday with a vitriolic attack on President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law who fled to Jordan earlier this week.

State newspapers had banner headlines denouncing General Hussein Kamel Hassan as a traitor and carried in full an address by President Saddam on Friday in which he compared his "treason" to that of Judas.

Gen. Hassan, who ran both Iraq's civil and military industries and helped in the formation of Baghdad's elite force of Republican Guards, fled to Jordan on Tuesday along with his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel Hassan, and their two wives, both daughters of President Saddam.

Jordan granted them and their entourage asylum and turned down an attempt by President Saddam's eldest son Uday to lure them home.

Iraqi officials and state media singled out Hussein Kamel among the defectors for their ire.

"The coward Hussein Kamel... has descended to the bottom of treachery," declared the official Al Qadisiya newspaper.

The government paper Al Jumhuriya said it was good that a "traitor" like Gen. Hassan had fled the country because his presence in Iraq would have "formed a dangerous mine which could have gone off at inappropriate time."

It said it was "jealousy" of power and position which prompted him to flee the country.

Both President Saddam and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz poured scorn on his defection on Friday, saying it would not undermine the government in

Baghdad. Shebab Television, owned by Uday, ran interviews with viewers who vented their wrath on Gen. Hassan. Many said he deserved to die.

The Babel newspaper, run by Saddam's eldest son Uday, headlined a "fight against treason and corruption" but like other papers gave no details of what measures would be taken to combat those responsible.

In the capital, life appeared to be going on as normal and the city's inhabitants said there were no signs of security being stepped up after the defections.

President Saddam on Friday said his son-in-law had set up companies at the beginning of the year and attracted individuals by promising them interest rates of up to 25 per cent.

"They were closed down by authorities a few months later after causing the ruin of a large number of depositors," he said.

A Saudi Arabian newspaper said that President Saddam's regime was on the verge of collapse following the defection and urged the Iraqi people to overthrow their government.

"The Iraqi regime which has depended on a one-man show is now living the last agonising moments of death," the daily Al Madina newspaper, quoted by the Saudi Press Agency, said in an editorial.

Al Madina said the defection "reveals wide and serious gaps in the police state created by the tyrant."

It added that "the key to get out of the fix of the one-man show lies with the Iraqi people and (Iraqi) opposition."

"They alone bear the burden of further shaking the regime at home in order to

bring it down for the sake of Iraq and its people."

Syria said the defection was a prelude to the total collapse of the Iraqi leader's government.

A senior Syrian information official said he expected President Saddam to become more dangerous as he struggled to hold onto power.

"What happened in Iraq is a fire in the regime's bedroom. It is a prelude to total collapse," said Ameer Khoulid, head of the official Syrian daily Al Thawra.

"It is the beginning of the actual downfall of the regime (whose) moral collapse occurred a long time ago," he said in a front-page commentary.

The defections are seen as a severe blow to the Iraqi leader, who for 15 years has been a bitter rival of his Syrian neighbours.

Despite the fact that both governments were founded on the same Arab Baathist ideology, Baghdad and Damascus broke ties in the 1970s. Their long common border has since been closed and Syria was the only Arab country to side openly with Iran in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Syria hosts several prominent Iraqi opposition figures, including ex-intelligence chief Major-General Wafiq Al Samarra.

The defections came after a dispute with Uday put Gen. Hassan's life in danger, an opposition leader said on Saturday.

Gen. Hassan called for providing the United Nations "with all information on Iraq's prohibited arms programmes," Ahmad Shalabi told AFP from London.

But Uday wanted "to keep certain information to use as leverage in negotiations with the U.N.," said Mr. Shalabi,

the head of main opposition coalition, the Iraqi National Congress (INC).

Uday felt the leverage was needed "because the United States would never allow the lifting of the embargo" imposed on Iraq after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Mr. Shalabi said.

"Hussein Kamel realised that his life was threatened because of the conflict with Uday," and "so he chose to flee," Mr. Shalabi said.

Mr. Shalabi said revelations by Gen. Hassan could "remove any possibility of the embargo being lifted."

Mr. Shalabi said President Saddam's half-brother Wabban Ibrahim Hassan was seriously injured in the legs on Aug. 8 in Baghdad by Uday's bodyguards after a disagreement with the Iraqi leader's eldest son.

The newspaper Babel said Wabban was accidentally hurt by individuals shooting rounds of ammunition in the air in celebration. Wabban was sacked in May from his post as interior minister.

"The situation is very tense in Baghdad, but Saddam and his family control the situation," Mr. Shalabi said.

He said the Republican Guards and elite troops had been deployed at sensitive points in and around the capital, especially around the presidential palace and the radio station.

Mr. Shalabi said Gen. Hassan had only limited influence in the army, adding that Qusay, President Saddam's younger son, controls the special forces and the Republican Guard.

But Gen. Hassan's defection would affect "negotiations with Western oil companies, particularly with the French, which he directed personally," he said.

3 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon attack

MARIJAYOUN (Agencies) — Three Israeli soldiers were wounded, one seriously, Saturday in a barrage of mortar fire unleashed by Iranian-backed guerrillas on South Lebanon, security sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the victims were evacuated by helicopter to a northern Israeli hospital for treatment of shrapnel injuries.

Hizbollah, or party of God, Iran's main Shiite Muslim fundamentalist ally in Lebanon, claimed responsibility for shelling the Israeli outpost at Dabshah in the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border enclave.

Israeli forces and allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) retaliated by shelling the environs of the southern Lebanese market town of Nabatiyah with tank and howitzer fire, the sources said.

They said two low-flying Israeli fighter-bombers later crashed the sound barrier in repeated mock air raids on Nabatiyah, causing thunderous booms that jolted thousands of residents out of bed.

The sources said there were no bombing sorties and they had no immediate report of casualties from the bombardment of Nabatiyah's surroundings.

Hizbollah, which opposes the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, has been leading a guerrilla war to dislodge Israeli from the occupied enclave it calls a "security zone."

The zone, which has a predominantly Shiite population of 200,000, was carved out in 1985 to shield Israel's northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

So far this year 114 people have been killed and 281 wounded in South Lebanon, the last fiery Arab-Israeli war front.

The Israeli army later said in a statement that the three casualties included an officer in serious condition. It said the Israeli army returned fire, but gave no details.

Security sources in Lebanon said Israeli jet fighters also flew low over the Iqlim Al Toufah heights, a Hizbollah bastion.



Clinton takes anti-smoking campaign to rock TV

WASHINGTON (AFP) President Bill Clinton took his crusade to abolish teenage smoking to the rock-and-roll airwaves Friday, warning youths that cigarettes are as big a threat to them as guns, drugs and AIDS.

"It's the thing that puts them most at risk over the long run," he said on the MTV television music channel when asked why kids should be concerned about smoking when so many were dying from drugs, sex and violence.

"We have to do something about the other things too," Mr. Clinton acknowledged, "but the cigarettes — the magnitude of the damage caused is greater than all of that right now."

Mr. Clinton announced Thursday he had ordered a crackdown on cigarette sales and marketing aimed at adolescents, prompting law suits from the tobacco companies and a skeptical response from American teens who say they have bigger concerns.

The president said he never tried cigarettes because his mother had been a heavy smoker. Thursday he admitted he still smoked a handful of cigars a year but he stepped a call to give them up.

Vatican decries German ban on mandatory crucifix display

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A German ban on mandatory display of crucifixes and crosses in classrooms stems from a "misguided religious pluralism," the Vatican said Friday.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, contended the constitutional court decision "moves Europe toward catastrophe" by breaking its "genuine Christian spiritual and cultural roots."

It said: "At a time in which Europe is recalling a war that killed people in the name of a hated emblem such as the swastika, now they take from the schools, in the name of misguided religious pluralism, these crucifixes." The German ruling Thursday overturned a law in conservative Bavaria that placed crosses and crucifixes on all classroom walls. The high court said the law violated freedom of religion.

South African gays protest against Mugabe

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) Around 100 people Friday held a protest outside Zimbabwe's trade mission here against ongoing attacks on gay people by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

The national news agency SABA said. The protest, organised by the national coalition for gay and lesbian equality, was sparked by Mugabe's remarks at a book fair in Harare on August 10 that homosexuals should not have any rights. Coalition spokesman Kevan Botha said Mr. Mugabe's comments were symptomatic of the ongoing abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe.

Protesters chanted: "Hey, hey, go, go, homophobia must go" and questioned Mr. Mugabe's sexuality: "Two, four, six, eight, is Mugabe really straight?" Posters condemned Mr. Mugabe. One read: "Zimbabwe needs a queen." Mr. Mugabe outraged human rights activists when he made his remarks before a distinguished audience at the opening of the Zimbabwe International Book Fair, much to the dismay of authors and publishers who had participated under the theme of freedom of expression.

At the same time, there is concern within the administration that the Iraqi government could collapse in a way that splinters Iraq and destabilises the Gulf region. NBC news reported Friday that Mr. Clinton has ordered the U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt to proceed at top speed to the Eastern Mediterranean. It quoted defence officials as saying the carrier's F-14 Tomcat fighter-bombers would fly over the Kingdom in a show of support.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Friday described as a "hallucination" American suggestions that Iraq posed a military threat to Jordan.

Kurds hold off police assault in Germany

BERLIN (AP) — Riot police firing teargas and water cannon battled militant Kurds on Friday at the site of a three-week-old hunger strike, the Kurds keeping police at bay with rocks and Molotov cocktails.

The police were attempting to enter a courtyard where 176 Kurds were holding a hunger strike to demand a peaceful solution to their bloody struggle for autonomy in Turkey.

But about 200 mostly young Kurds fought them off with clubs, rocks and firebombs.

Police said their aim was to remove a metal gate they said the Kurds were using to block the entrance of several residents of apartments reachable only via the courtyard.

But the Kurds accused the police of a provocation, saying their guards had never stopped residents from passing through the gate.

"First, all the residents had keys to the gate, and second, our people always let them through," said Zana Arzlan, a spokesman for the hunger strikers.

spokesman said they never had the intention of storming the Kurdish cultural centre where the hunger strike is being held.

They did succeed in their professed aim of removing the gate, which the Kurds then recovered and used to create a barricade further back in the courtyard.

Mr. Arzlan and other members of the hunger strike committee defended the use of violence against the police and vowed not to be coerced into ending the open-ended hunger strike.

"The people are saying that if the police come they are prepared to do anything to stop them," he said.

Mr. Arzlan would not directly respond when asked to comment on police claims that hunger strikers have threatened to set fire to themselves if police try to remove them.

And he did not deny that the hunger strikers are sympathisers of the Kurdish Labour Party, which Germany has banned as a terrorist organisation.

U.S. administration sees gains and perils in Iraqi defections

WASHINGTON (AP) — The defection of two Saddam Hussein's top lieutenants reveals deep instability in Baghdad and must have had the support of many others close to the Iraqi president, U.S. officials say.

Clinton administration officials are relishing a potential trove of information from the flight to Jordan in a Mercedes motorcade by General Hussein Kamel Al Majid, chief of Iraq's weapons programmes; and his brother, Saddam Kamel Al Majid, commander of the special forces protecting President Saddam's daughters.

They know more than almost anybody else about Iraq's efforts to produce nuclear and chemical weapons and about President Saddam's hold on power, which U.S. officials believe is slipping.

"This is family. This is not just Republican Guards," a U.S. official said. "This under any system would be a major break."

State Department spokesman David Johnson refused to say whether U.S. officials had begun debriefing the two Iraqis. But Mr. Johnson said Gen. Hassan "certainly could provide a great deal of information which might prove very

useful" to Rolf Ekeus, head of U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq.

The Pentagon reported Thursday shifting of tanks and artillery and other "heavily preparatory moves" by Iraqi forces after the defection to Jordan. But Mr. Johnson said Friday, "we have seen no evidence of Iraqi moves directly related to these defections."

In light of President Saddam's record, the spokesman said it was prudent to prepare for threats.

The United States has sought for years to motivate Iraqi military officers to revolt and in 1991 led a 33-nation coalition that fought a six-week war to end Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990, occupation of Kuwait.

The Clinton administration has held off Russia and other U.S. allies in maintaining stiff economic sanctions designed to wreck the Iraqi economy.

"The defections demonstrate that the United States policy of holding fast to the sanctions regime until Iraq has met all of its United Nations Security Council resolutions is working," Mr. Johnson said.

One official, insisting on anonymity, said the Iraqi leader is likely to lash out at Kurds to show he remains in charge.

"But he's got a lot to worry about. (The defections) couldn't have done this without a lot of people aware of them and helping them," the official told the Associated Press.

President Saddam trusts only close members of his family and has not hesitated to eliminate those he lost faith in. "People are now going to say it can be done, you can oppose Saddam," the official said. "And they will find allies."

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Carbomb injures 12 in Algeria

PARIS (R) — A car bomb exploded on Saturday outside a post office near Algiers injuring 12 people, including three children, an official Algerian security statement said.

The car bomb went off in the morning outside the post office in the town of Souidania, 60 kilometres west of Algiers, said the statement carried by the official Algerian News Agency (APC).

Twelve people, including three children, were slightly injured by the explosion which also damaged a school, several shops and three cars, it said.

There was no word about the bombers' identity but Algerian newspapers have blamed the country's Muslim guerrillas for a string of car bombings.

At least 20 people have been killed in and around Algiers in similar blasts since early July, according to official and local newspapers reports.

Algerian President Liamine Zoual started talks on Saturday with political figures and some opposition groups about a presidential poll promised to be held before the end of the year.

The country's main opposition parties selected President Zoual's initiative, urging him to open negotiations with militant leaders to end the violence before holding elections.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in Algeria since January 1992 when Muslim militants took up arms after army-backed authorities cancelled a general election which the Islamists were poised to win.

They said the reporter, named as Naim Hammaouda, had been shot to death.

The killing took to 37 — of which four women — the number of journalists killed in Algeria since May 1993. Most of the killings have been attributed to Islamic extremists. Another two journalists are still missing after having been kidnapped.

The security forces said the corpse had been found at Saoula, 20 kilometres south of Algiers.

On Tuesday, another weekly Hebdo Libre, had said the same body was that of one of its journalists on leave of absence, Aicha Benamar. It said her throat had been cut.

However, Benamar then telephoned newspapers to say she was alive and well and staying with her parents in 'Ain Deffa, western Algeria, newspapers said.

Witnesses said the confusion had apparently arisen because the two women had been living in the same building, and were the only people living there at the time the killing was initially reported.

Journalists are one of the key groups targeted by fundamentalists, especially the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

An explosion blamed on saboteurs destroyed a bridge outside a northern Algeria coastal city, press reports said Saturday. The reports said an armed militant group was implicated in the Wednesday night blast, which took out the Boudkhrou bridge linking Tizi-Ouzou on the Mediterranean coast with nearby Tizi-zit.

It was the fourth bridge to be damaged or destroyed this summer. Government security forces have stepped up patrols in recent days in an attempt to thwart more such attacks along key routes.

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By a Jordan Ti
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the British air force in
1991 Gulf war that drove
(Continued on page 1

Military exercise
begin Aug. 18
AMMAN (U.T.) — Jor
and the U.S. will con
joint military exercise s
Aug. 18, the Jordan Ne
Agency, Petra, said. A
of regular troops and
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involved in the training
dies, which also involv
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disc, which is part of
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Jordan-Yemen
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research and to form a sec
committee to follow up
two sides of agreements.
The signing of the im
rules of the Joint High
Jordanian Yemeni Commi
meetings, which were
held in Sanaa last June (so
page 3).

Abdul Meguid to
visit Algeria
CAIRO (AFP) — Th
secretary general of the Ara
League, Esmat Abdou
is to visit Algeria for
discussions with Algerian
President Liamine Zoual
concerning the League's
revision of the League's
statutes.